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Homicides, Firearm Offences and Intimate Violence 2007/08

(Supplementary Volume 2 to Crime in England and Wales 2007/08)

David Povey (Ed.), Kathryn Coleman, Peter Kaiza and Stephen Roe

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02/09

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Introduction

This bulletin is one of a series of supplementary volumes that accompany the main 2007/08 crime volume, Crime in England and Wales 2007/08, which is available at:

(<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/hosb0708.pdf>)

It contains chapters on homicides and firearm offences, which contain mostly statistics of crimes recorded by the police. Headline figures for both measures were published in the main 2007/08 crime volume, but these chapters contain underlying detail that has not been published before.

There is also a chapter on the extent of intimate violence from the 2007/08 British Crime Survey (BCS) self-completion module. BCS figures for overall violence and other crime types are reported in the main 2007/08 crime volume.

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1 Homicide

Kathryn Coleman

The term 'homicide' covers the offences of murder, manslaughter and infanticide. Murder and manslaughter are common law offences that have never been defined by statute, although they have been modified by statute. The offence of 'infanticide' was created by the Infanticide Act 1922 and refined by the Infanticide Act 1938 (s1).

In this chapter, homicide offences are shown according to the year in which the police initially recorded the offence as homicide. This is not necessarily the year in which the incident took place or the year in which any court decision was made. The data refer to the position as at 4 November 2008, when recording closed down for the purpose of analysis, and will change as subsequent court hearings take place or other information is received. Because of differences in recording practice with respect to 'no crimes', data from the Homicide Index do not necessarily agree with the recorded crime data.

SUMMARY

There were 773 deaths initially recorded as homicide in England and Wales based on cases recorded by the police in 2007/08, an increase of two per cent (15 homicides) since 2006/07.

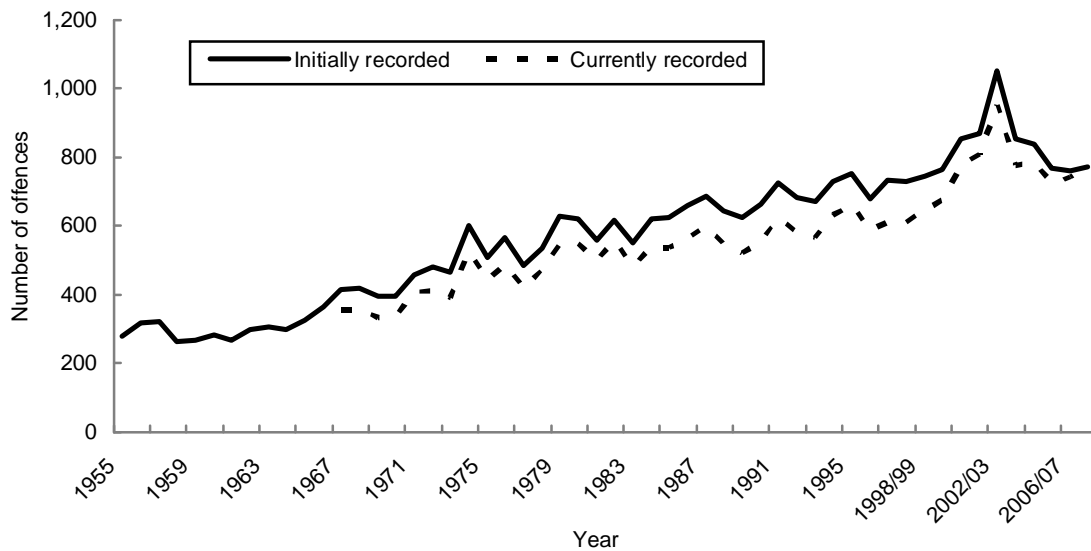
- Almost three-quarters of homicide victims (73%) were male.
- The most common method of killing, at 35 per cent, involved a sharp instrument. The number of sharp instrument homicides recorded during 2007/08, at 270, is only one higher than was recorded the previous year, but is the highest number recorded during a financial year since the Homicide Index was introduced in 1977.
- There were 53 shooting victims in 2007/08 compared to 59 in 2006/07.
- Female victims were more likely to be killed by someone they knew: 73 per cent of female victims knew the main suspect compared to 48 per cent of male victims. Eighty per cent of victims aged under 16 knew the main suspect.
- Overall, the risk of being a victim of homicide was 14.1 per million population. Children under one year old were the most at risk age group, at 36 per million population.

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1.1 OFFENCES RECORDED AS HOMICIDE

In 2007/08, 773 deaths were **initially recorded as homicide**, an increase of two per cent on the previous year. Where the police initially record an offence as homicide it remains classified unless the police or courts decide later that no offence or homicide took place. Of the 773 offences first recorded in 2007/08, ten were no longer recorded as homicides by 4 November 2008. The 763 offences **currently recorded as homicide** in 2007/08 compared with 742 in 2006/07, an increase of three per cent.

Figure 1.1 Offences recorded by the police in England and Wales, 1955 to 2007/08



1. Year 2005/06 includes 52 victims of the 7 July London bombings.
2. Year 2003/04 includes 20 cockle pickers who drowned in Morecambe Bay.
3. Year 2002/03 includes 172 victims of Dr Harold Shipman.
4. Year 2000/01 includes 58 Chinese nationals who collectively suffocated in a lorry en route in the UK.

Caution is needed when looking at homicide trend figures, primarily because they are based on the year in which offences are recorded by the police rather than the year in which the incidents took place. An example of this is 172 homicides attributed to Dr Harold Shipman as a result of Dame Janet Smith's inquiry; the offences took place over a long period of time but were all recorded by the police during 2002/03. Also, for an incident where several people are killed (such as the cockle pickers drowning in Morecambe Bay and the 7 July London bombing victims), the number of homicides counted is the total number of persons killed rather than the number of incidents.

Court proceedings had resulted in homicide convictions in respect of 241 victims and proceedings were pending for a further 63. Suspects responsible for the deaths of 17 victims had committed suicide or died, and all suspects were acquitted in 36 cases. No suspects had been identified in connection with 402 cases (52% of victims) when data collection closed on 4 November 2008 for the purpose of analysis. In the remaining 14 cases the proceedings were either discontinued or not initiated (Table 1.02).

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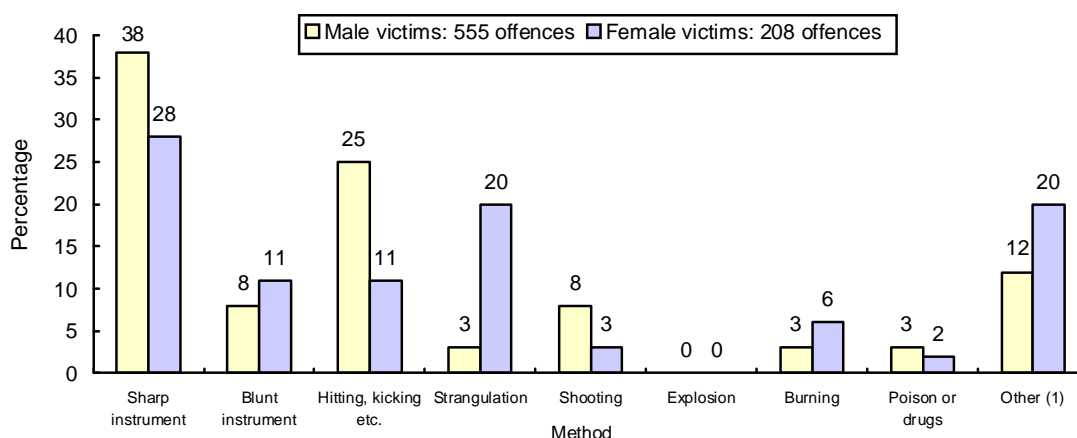
1.2 VICTIMS

Method of killing

As in previous years, the most common method of killing was with a sharp instrument. Thirty-five per cent of all victims were killed by this method: 38 per cent of male victims and 28 per cent of female victims. The 270 sharp instrument homicides recorded, up by one on 2006/07, is the highest number since the Homicide Index was introduced. The second most common method used against men (25%) involved hitting or kicking whereas female victims were more likely to be strangled or asphyxiated (20%).

Shooting accounted for seven per cent of homicides (53 victims) in 2007/08: eight per cent of male victims (47 offences) and three per cent of female victims (six offences). This compares with 59 homicides by shooting in 2006/07, which accounted for eight per cent of all homicides (Table 1.03).

Figure 1.2 Percentage of offences currently recorded as homicide, by apparent method of killing and sex of victim, 2007/08



1. 'Other' includes all other apparent methods and where method unknown.

Relationship between victims and suspect

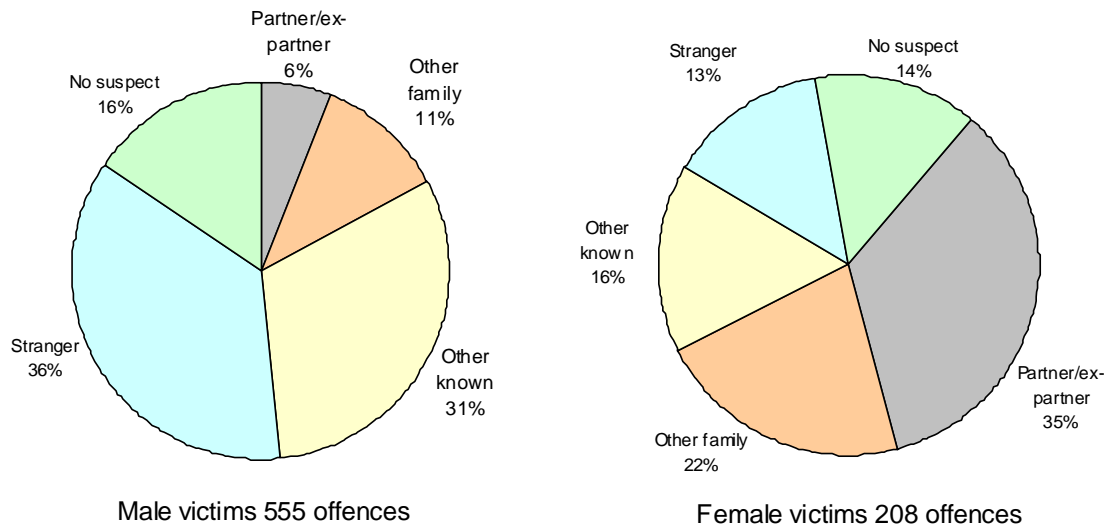
Seventy-three per cent of female victims knew the main or only suspect at the time of the offence. Of these female victims, 48 per cent were killed by their partner, ex-partner or lover. By comparison, 48 per cent of male victims knew the main or only suspect. Of these male victims, 13 per cent were killed by their partner, ex-partner or lover.

In 2007/08, 199 men (36% of all male victims) and 28 women (13% of all female victims) were killed by strangers¹. Over the last five years the proportion of female victims killed by a stranger was 21 per cent, compared to 41 per cent of male victims.

¹ Stranger category includes: business associate, police/prison officer killed in the course of duty, stranger (terrorist/contract killing and other) and where there is insufficient information about the suspect to determine relationship to victim.

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Figure 1.3 All victims by relationship of victim to principal suspect, 2007/08

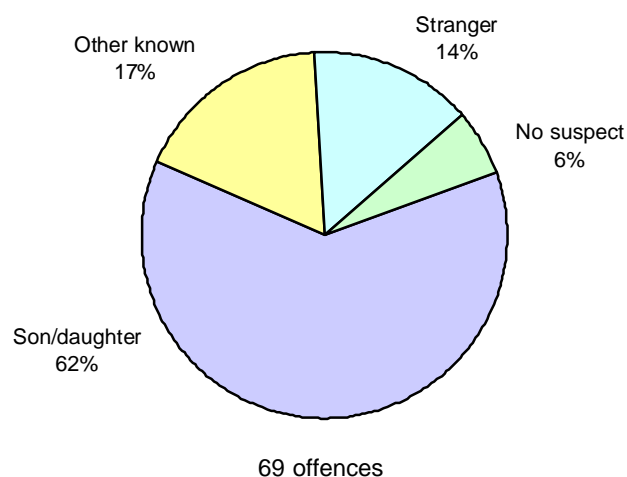


Victims under 16 years of age

In 2007/08 there were at least 69 victims under 16 years of age, no change from the previous year. Of all the offences currently recorded as homicide in 2007/08 (763 victims), nine per cent of the victims were under the age of 16, the same proportion as in the previous year.

Both the number and proportion of victims aged under 16 who were acquainted with the main suspect were higher in 2007/08 compared to 2006/07. Forty-three of the victims (62%) were killed by their parents in 2007/08, an increase from 35 (51%) in 2006/07. A further 12 (17%) knew the main suspect, compared to nine (13%) the year previously. Ten (14%) of the victims were known to have been killed by strangers and, as of 4 November 2008, there were no suspects for four (6%) of the victims. (Figure 1.4, Table 1.04).

Figure 1.4 Victims under 16 years of age, by relationship of victim to suspect, 2007/08



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Circumstances of the homicides

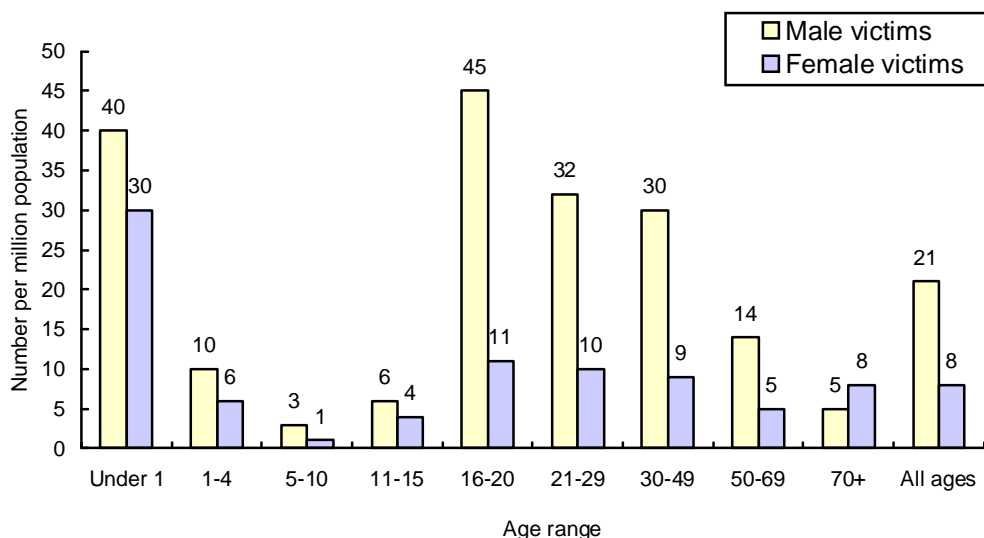
A quarrel, revenge or loss of temper reportedly accounted for 45 per cent of homicides (341 offences) in 2007/08: 51 per cent of all cases where the principal suspect was known to the victim and 37 per cent of all cases where the suspect was unknown to the victim. Six per cent of homicides (47 offences) occurred during robberies or burglaries and three per cent (23 offences) were attributed to irrational acts². As at 4 November 2008, the apparent circumstances were not known for 24 per cent of the homicides (186 offences) recorded in 2007/08 (Table 1.06).

Risks for different age groups

Overall in 2007/08, males (at 21 per million population) were more at risk of being homicide victims than females (eight per million population). As in previous years, and using the traditional age groupings employed in earlier homicide chapters, the age group most at risk of homicide were children under one year old, at 36 per million population (but see also further analysis below). However for this age group, and children generally, numbers are relatively small and considerable year-on-year variation in the rate is to be expected. The second most at risk age group, consistent with previous years, are those persons aged between 16 and 29, at a rate of 24 per million population. Males in this age group were the most vulnerable overall at a rate of 37 per million population. By comparison, the risk for all persons over 70 years of age in 2007/08 was seven per million population (Table 1.07).

Further analysis was conducted on the 5-to-15 years and 16-to-29 years age groupings. Males in the 11-to-15 years age grouping were more at risk, at six per million population, than those in the 5-to-10 years age grouping (three per million population). The risk per million population in 2007/08 was highest for males aged between 16 and 20 (inclusive) at a rate of 45 per million population, compared to females at 11 per million population (Figure 1.5).

Figure 1.5 Offences currently recorded as homicide per million population by age of victim, 2007/08



² These figures do not account for all homicides committed by mentally disturbed people, as offences with an apparent motive (e.g. during a quarrel, or a gang-related killing) are included under the respective circumstance. Higher overall totals for homicides committed by mentally disturbed people are quoted elsewhere, e.g. the National Confidential Inquiry into Suicide and Homicide by People with Mental Illness (Appleby, 2006).

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1.3 SUSPECTS

Box 1.1 Definition of homicide suspect

A suspect in a homicide case is defined as (i) a person who has been arrested in respect of an offence initially classified as homicide and has been charged with homicide or (ii) a person who is suspected by the police of having committed the offence but is known to have died or committed suicide prior to arrest. More than one suspect may be tried for one offence and sometimes no suspect is ever brought to trial. Hence the number of suspects is not the same as the number of offences.

By 4 November 2008, at least one suspect had been identified in 335 (or 43%) of the currently recorded homicides (Table 1.02). In total there were 945 suspects (Table 1a). Court proceedings had concluded for 394 suspects: 384 of these were indicted for homicide offences (Table 1.09) and ten for lesser offences. Court proceedings were pending for 519 suspects (Table 1a). Of the remaining 32 suspects, 13 had either died or committed suicide before indictment and no proceedings had taken place for 19 suspects³ (Tables 1.09 and 1a).

Table 1a Outcomes for all suspects, 2003/04 to 2007/08

Outcome	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Convicted of homicide	627	653	537	470	305
Both indicted and not indicted for homicide					
Convicted of lesser offence	30	39	31	43	24
Unfit to plead or insane	7	1	2	4	6
Acquitted/discontinued etc.	223	204	131	117	60
Proceedings concluded other outcome	9	4	3	4	4
Committed suicide or died	32	31	19	22	18 ¹
No proceedings taken	3	4	7	6	9
Proceedings pending	90	126	161	238	519
Total	1,100	1,135	972	1,007	1,061

1. Five of these suspects had been indicted, 13 had not.

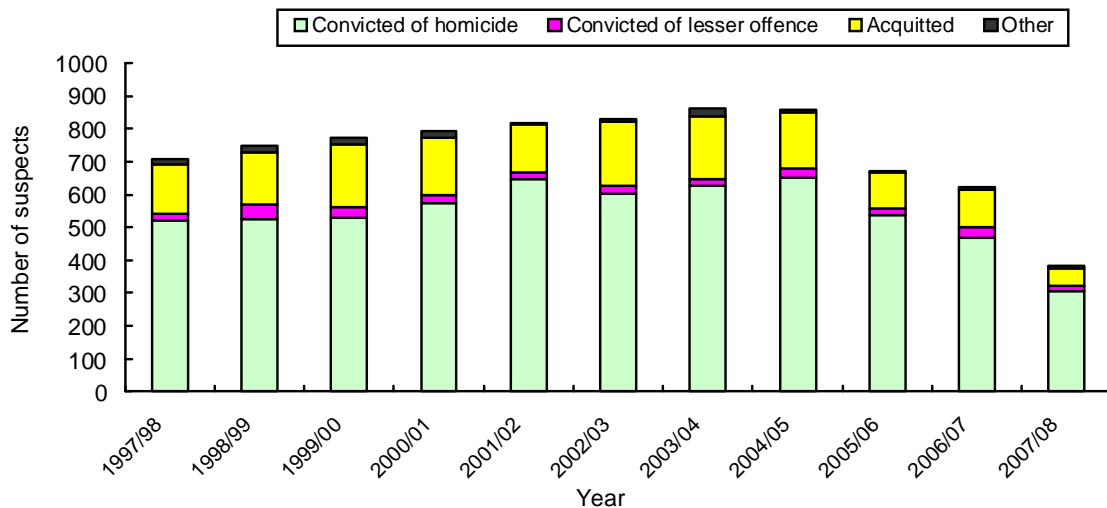
For those suspects where proceedings had concluded, 346 were male and 48 female. Fifty per cent of males indicted of homicide were convicted of murder, 31 per cent were convicted of manslaughter and 14 per cent were acquitted. For females indicted, 28 per cent were convicted of murder, 41 per cent of manslaughter and 20 per cent were acquitted.

More complete data from previous years are a better guide to the outcome of court proceedings and the above-mentioned percentages are likely to change as more information becomes available. Too much importance should not be placed on year 2007/08's data since just over half (55%) of the suspects had not been before the courts at the time of this analysis. This percentage will decrease as time elapses. Between 1997/98 and 2006/07, 74 per cent of suspects indicted for homicide were found guilty of homicide and 24 per cent were acquitted (Table 1.09 and Figure 1.6).

³ This figure is derived at by subtracting figures in table 1.09 [the number of suspects indicted and: found unfit to plead (2), not guilty by reason of insanity (1) or acquitted on all counts (55)] from ones in table 1a [the number indicted/not indicted and: found unfit to plead or insane (6), acquitted/discontinued (60) or no proceedings taken (9)].

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Figure 1.6 Suspects indicted for homicide by outcome of proceedings, 1997/98 to 2007/08



Previous homicide convictions

Home Office Statistics was not notified by the police of any convictions for homicide recorded in 2007/08 where the suspect had been convicted of a homicide on a previous occasion. Among those who had been convicted of homicides recorded between 1997/98 and 2007/08, 30 had previously been convicted of homicide, compared to the 21 suspects reported in the last homicide chapter relating to the period 1996 to 2006/07. This increase is due to revised information being supplied to Home Office Statistics by the police and other sources.

Nine of the 30 subsequent convictions were for murder, where the original conviction was also murder. Over this period 1997/98 to 2007/08, a total of three suspects had been serving a custodial sentence when they were convicted of their subsequent offence. The data include all previous homicide convictions (where known) wherever they took place but the second offence must have occurred in England and Wales to be included in this analysis (Tables 1.11 and 1.12).

**Table 1.01 Offences¹ initially recorded by the police as homicide by current classification²:
England and Wales, 1955 to 2007/08**

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Numbers and rates per million population			Recorded crime	
Year	Number of offences initially recorded as homicide	Number of offences no longer recorded as homicide	Number of offences currently recorded as homicide	Offences currently recorded as homicide per million population
1955	279	..	..	..
1956	315	..	..	..
1957	321	..	..	..
1958	261	..	..	..
1959	266	..	..	..
1960	282	..	..	..
1961	265	..	..	..
1962	299	..	..	..
1963	307	..	..	..
1964	296	..	..	..
1965	325	..	..	..
1966	364	..	..	..
1967	414	60	354	7.3
1968	420	60	360	7.4
1969	395	63	332	6.8
1970	396	57	339	7.0
1971	459	52	407	8.3
1972	480	71	409	8.3
1973	465	74	391	8.0
1974	599	73	526	10.7
1975	508	65	443	9.0
1976	565	77	488	9.9
1977	484	66	418	8.5
1978	535	64	471	9.6
1979	629	83	546	11.1
1980	621	72	549	11.1
1981	556	57	499	10.1
1982	618	61	557	11.2
1983	552	70	482	9.7
1984	619	82	537	10.8
1985	625	89	536	10.7
1986	660	97	563	11.2
1987	686	87	599	11.9
1988	645	98	547	10.9
1989	622	101	521	10.3
1990	661	106	555	10.9
1991	725	102	623	12.3
1992	681	100	581	11.4
1993	673	108	565	11.1
1994	727	95	632	12.4
1995	752	90	662	13.0
1996	678	92	586	11.4
1997	734	125	609	11.8
1997/98	729	120	609	11.8
1998/99	745	99	646	12.5
1999/00	763	88	675	13.0
2000/01	852	79	773	14.9
2001/02	867	59	808	15.4
2002/03	1051	98	953	18.1
2003/04	855	79	776	14.7
2004/05	839	55	784	14.8
2005/06	768	45	723	13.5
2006/07	758	16	742	13.8
2007/08	773	10	763	14.1

1. A separate offence is recorded for each victim of homicide, so that in an incident in which several people are killed, the number of homicides counted is the total number of persons killed.

2. As at 4 November 2008; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.

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Table 1.02 Offences initially recorded as homicide by outcome: England and Wales, 1997/98 to 2007/08

Numbers	Recorded crime										
	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Outcome											
Offences initially recorded as homicide	729	745	763	852	867	1,051	855	839	768	758	773
Offences no longer recorded as homicide ¹	120	99	88	79	59	98	79	55	45	16	10
Offences currently recorded as homicide ¹											
Decided at court to be homicide:											
Murder	209	228	242	252	277	296	305	307	273	223	139
Sec 2 Manslaughter	50	40	28	18	19	15	21	23	23	33	9
Other Manslaughter	188	215	189	287	262	234	210	215	136	129	93
Infanticide	4	7	1	5	1	-	-	1	1	-	-
Total	451	490	460	562	559	545	536	546	433	385	241
Court decision pending	17	25	34	55	65	40	76	78	104	143	63
Proceedings not initiated or concluded without conviction or acquittal:											
Suspect found by the court to be insane	4	3	2	1	-	1	3	1	1	-	1
Suspect died	3	4	4	6	6	7	6	8	4	9	1
Suspect committed suicide	30	36	34	33	25	31	31	25	64	20	16
Proceedings discontinued or not initiated	29	21	45	12	8	182	10	2	6	6	13
Total	66	64	85	52	39	221	50	36	75	35	31
Currently no suspect:											
All suspects acquitted	143	119	132	123	82	120	110	106	71	58	36
No suspects charged	52	47	52	60	122	125	83	73	85	137	402
Total	195	166	184	183	204	245	193	179	156	195	438
Total offences currently recorded as homicide	729	745	763	852	867	1,051	855	839	768	758	773

1. As at 4 November 2008; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.

Table 1.03 Offences currently¹ recorded as homicide by apparent method of killing and sex of victim: England and Wales, 1997/98 to 2007/08

Protect - Statistics

Numbers										Recorded crime	
Apparent method	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Male victims											
Sharp instrument	137	151	153	156	194	183	183	188	162	190	212
Blunt instrument	47	41	44	50	36	26	53	49	41	34	44
Hitting, kicking, etc.	79	76	82	86	120	112	111	111	91	126	140
Strangulation ²	12	29	20	84	18	20	18	16	14	23	16
Shooting ³	45	42	52	63	91	55	61	60	39	53	47
Explosion ⁴	1	2	3	2	-	2	-	2	24	1	-
Burning	15	13	9	9	15	7	19	17	15	14	14
Drowning ⁵	5	3	3	7	8	4	20	8	3	8	5
Poison or drugs ⁶	12	24	20	21	20	67	11	19	20	25	16
Motor vehicle ⁷	12	11	10	11	15	18	15	17	12	3	9
Other	26	26	24	46	25	27	21	28	17	26	30
Not known	9	12	29	9	17	20	42	39	41	44	22
Total	400	430	449	544	559	541	554	554	479	547	555
Female victims											
Sharp instrument	65	50	60	59	67	83	59	72	57	79	58
Blunt instrument	21	24	26	27	24	22	20	17	19	11	22
Hitting, kicking, etc.	24	13	13	16	25	38	26	16	20	15	23
Strangulation ²	50	49	36	63	60	47	49	48	43	31	41
Shooting ³	7	4	9	9	6	20	6	10	11	6	6
Explosion ⁴	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	29	-	-
Burning	13	19	4	9	14	15	9	15	12	15	13
Drowning ⁵	1	3	3	2	4	3	4	4	1	1	1
Poison or drugs ⁶	5	23	33	12	15	135	9	10	11	1	4
Motor vehicle ⁷	1	3	1	5	4	3	7	5	2	3	3
Other	12	17	16	22	15	21	15	13	8	15	22
Not known	10	11	24	5	14	25	18	20	31	18	15
Total	209	216	226	229	249	412	222	230	244	195	208
Total victims											
Sharp instrument	202	201	213	215	261	266	242	260	219	269	270
Blunt instrument	68	65	70	77	60	48	73	66	60	45	66
Hitting, kicking, etc.	103	89	95	102	145	150	137	127	111	141	163
Strangulation ²	62	78	56	147	78	67	67	64	57	54	57
Shooting ³	52	46	61	72	97	75	67	70	50	59	53
Explosion ⁴	1	2	4	2	1	2	-	2	53	1	-
Burning	28	32	13	18	29	22	28	32	27	29	27
Drowning ⁵	6	6	6	9	12	7	24	12	4	9	6
Poison or drugs ⁶	17	47	53	33	35	202	20	29	31	26	20
Motor vehicle ⁷	13	14	11	16	19	21	22	22	14	6	12
Other	38	43	40	68	40	48	36	41	25	41	52
Not known	19	23	53	14	31	45	60	59	72	62	37
Total	609	646	675	773	808	953	776	784	723	742	763

1. As at 4 November 2008; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.

2. Including asphyxiation. Year 2000/01 includes 58 Chinese nationals who collectively suffocated in a lorry en route into the UK.

3. These figures may not agree with those in the firearms chapter because (a) figures include cases where the firearm was used as a blunt instrument and (b) homicide figures include shooting by crossbows and are compiled at a later date and take into account the results of police and court decisions.

4. Year 2005/06 includes 52 victims of the 7 July London bombings.

5. Year 2003/04 includes 20 cockle pickers who drowned in Morecambe Bay.

6. Year 2002/03 includes 172 victims of Dr Shipman.

7. Excluding death by careless/dangerous driving and aggravated vehicle taking.

Protect - Statistics

Table 1.04 Homicides currently¹ recorded for victims under 16 years by relationship of victim to principal suspect: England and Wales, 1997/98 to 2007/08

Numbers	Recorded crime										
	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Male victims											
Victim acquainted with suspect											
Son or daughter	27	30	29	44	30	26	18	11	15	20	28
Other family/friend/acquaintance	8	7	3	5	6	2	10	7	8	7	5
Total acquainted	35	37	32	49	36	28	28	18	23	27	33
Victim not acquainted with suspect											
Stranger ²	5	3	4	61	3	6	11	8	4	8	9
No suspect	2	5	3	3	6	5	7	18	1	8	1
Total not acquainted	7	8	7	64	9	11	18	26	5	16	10
TOTAL	42	45	39	113	45	39	46	44	28	43	43
Female victims											
Victim acquainted with suspect											
Son or daughter	17	24	19	34	10	25	16	19	10	15	15
Other family/friend/acquaintance	7	9	1	2	3	9	2	4	2	2	7
Total acquainted	24	33	20	36	13	34	18	23	12	17	22
Victim not acquainted with suspect											
Stranger ²	1	2	5	7	3	11	3	3	8	3	1
No suspect	4	1	1	-	1	9	6	4	4	6	3
Total not acquainted	5	3	6	7	4	20	9	7	12	9	4
TOTAL	29	36	26	43	17	54	27	30	24	26	26
All victims											
Victim acquainted with suspect											
Son or daughter	44	54	48	78	40	51	34	30	25	35	43
Other family/friend/acquaintance	15	16	4	7	9	11	12	11	10	9	12
Total acquainted	59	70	52	85	49	62	46	41	35	44	55
Victim not acquainted with suspect											
Stranger ²	6	5	9	68	6	17	14	11	12	11	10
No suspect	6	6	4	3	7	14	13	22	5	14	4
Total not acquainted	12	11	13	71	13	31	27	33	17	25	14
TOTAL	71	81	65	156	62	93	73	74	52	69	69

1. As at 4 November 2008; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.

2. Includes cases where relationship not known.

Protect - Statistics

Table 1.04 (continued)

Percentages	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	Recorded crime 2007/08
Male victims											
Victim acquainted with suspect											
Son or daughter	64	67	74	39	67	67	39	25	54	47	65
Other family/friend/acquaintance	19	16	8	4	13	5	22	16	29	16	12
Total acquainted	83	82	82	43	80	72	61	41	82	63	77
Victim not acquainted with suspect											
Stranger ²	12	7	10	54	7	15	24	18	14	19	21
No suspect	5	11	8	3	13	13	15	41	4	19	2
Total not acquainted	17	18	18	57	20	28	39	59	18	37	23
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Female victims											
Victim acquainted with suspect											
Son or daughter	59	67	73	79	59	46	59	63	42	58	58
Other family/friend/acquaintance	24	25	4	5	18	17	7	13	8	8	27
Total acquainted	83	92	77	84	76	63	67	77	50	65	85
Victim not acquainted with suspect											
Stranger ²	3	6	19	16	18	20	11	10	33	12	4
No suspect	14	3	4	-	6	17	22	13	17	23	12
Total not acquainted	17	8	23	16	24	37	33	23	50	35	15
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
All victims											
Victim acquainted with suspect											
Son or daughter	62	67	74	50	65	55	47	41	48	51	62
Other family/friend/acquaintance	21	20	6	4	15	12	16	15	19	13	17
Total acquainted	83	86	80	54	79	67	63	55	67	64	80
Victim not acquainted with suspect											
Stranger ²	8	6	14	44	10	18	19	15	23	16	14
No suspect	8	7	6	2	11	15	18	30	10	20	6
Total not acquainted	17	14	20	46	21	33	37	45	33	36	20
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

1. As at 4 November 2008; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.

2. Includes cases where relationship not known.

Protect - Statistics

Table 1.05 Homicides currently¹ recorded for all victims by relationship of victim to principal suspect: England and Wales 1997/98 to 2007/08

Numbers		1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Male victims												
Victim acquainted with suspect												
Son or daughter		29	31	31	46	31	27	19	13	16	22	35
Parent		7	9	9	6	10	12	23	15	14	6	11
Partner/ex-partner		31	27	24	26	29	30	26	38	22	29	34
Other family		10	8	17	18	13	10	15	16	16	15	15
Friend/acquaintance		142	168	139	142	148	132	172	171	131	177	174
Total known		219	243	220	238	231	211	255	253	199	249	269
Victim not acquainted with suspect												
Stranger ²		119	133	153	222	222	239	232	241	222	214	199
No suspect		62	54	76	84	106	91	67	60	58	84	87
Total not known		181	187	229	306	328	330	299	301	280	298	286
TOTAL		400	430	449	544	559	541	554	554	479	547	555
Female victims												
Victim acquainted with suspect												
Son or daughter		18	26	19	38	12	27	18	21	14	16	19
Parent		14	7	6	5	12	11	9	7	5	3	11
Partner/ex-partner		100	76	88	101	117	106	96	105	89	87	72
Other family		6	10	5	8	9	8	7	9	5	5	15
Friend/acquaintance		28	38	25	24	31	40	26	31	28	25	34
Total known		166	157	143	176	181	192	156	173	141	136	151
Victim not acquainted with suspect												
Stranger ²		27	42	65	42	40	185	49	41	78	35	28
No suspect		16	17	18	11	28	35	17	16	25	24	29
Total not known		43	59	83	53	68	220	66	57	103	59	57
TOTAL		209	216	226	229	249	412	222	230	244	195	208
All victims												
Victim acquainted with suspect												
Son or daughter		47	57	50	84	43	54	37	34	30	38	54
Parent		21	16	15	11	22	23	32	22	19	9	22
Partner/ex-partner		131	103	112	127	146	136	122	143	111	116	106
Other family		16	18	22	26	22	18	22	25	21	20	30
Friend/acquaintance		170	206	164	166	179	172	198	202	159	202	208
Total known		385	400	363	414	412	403	411	426	340	385	420
Victim not acquainted with suspect												
Stranger ²		146	175	218	264	262	424	281	282	300	249	227
No suspect		78	71	94	95	134	126	84	76	83	108	116
Total not known		224	246	312	359	396	550	365	358	383	357	343
TOTAL		609	646	675	773	808	953	776	784	723	742	763

1. As at 4 November 2008; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.

2. Includes not known.

Protect - Statistics

Table 1.05 (continued)

Percentages		1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Male victims												
Victim acquainted with suspect												
Son or daughter		7	7	7	8	6	5	3	2	3	4	6
Parent		2	2	2	1	2	2	4	3	3	1	2
Partner/ex-partner		8	6	5	5	5	6	5	7	5	5	6
Other family		3	2	4	3	2	2	3	3	3	3	3
Friend/acquaintance		36	39	31	26	26	24	31	31	27	32	31
Total known		55	57	49	44	41	39	46	46	42	46	48
Victim not acquainted with suspect												
Stranger ²		30	31	34	41	40	44	42	44	46	39	36
No suspect		16	13	17	15	19	17	12	11	12	15	16
Total not known		45	43	51	56	59	61	54	54	58	54	52
TOTAL		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Female victims												
Victim acquainted with suspect												
Son or daughter		9	12	8	17	5	7	8	9	6	8	9
Parent		7	3	3	2	5	3	4	3	2	2	5
Partner/ex-partner		48	35	39	44	47	26	43	46	36	45	35
Other family		3	5	2	3	4	2	3	4	2	3	7
Friend/acquaintance		13	18	11	10	12	10	12	13	11	13	16
Total known		79	73	63	77	73	47	70	75	58	70	73
Victim not acquainted with suspect												
Stranger ²		13	19	29	18	16	45	22	18	32	18	13
No suspect		8	8	8	5	11	8	8	7	10	12	14
Total not known		21	27	37	23	27	53	30	25	42	30	27
TOTAL		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
All victims												
Victim acquainted with suspect												
Son or daughter		8	9	7	11	5	6	5	4	4	5	7
Parent		3	2	2	1	3	2	4	3	3	1	3
Partner/ex-partner		22	16	17	16	18	14	16	18	15	16	14
Other family		3	3	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	3	4
Friend/acquaintance		28	32	24	21	22	18	26	26	22	27	27
Total known		63	62	54	54	51	42	53	54	47	52	55
Victim not acquainted with suspect												
Stranger ²		24	27	32	34	32	44	36	36	41	34	30
No suspect		13	11	14	12	17	13	11	10	11	15	15
Total not known		37	38	46	46	49	58	47	46	53	48	45
TOTAL		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

1. As at 4 November 2008; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.

2. Includes not known.

Table 1.06 Offences currently¹ recorded as homicide: apparent circumstances and relationship of victim to principal suspect: England and Wales 1997/98 to 2007/08

Numbers	Recorded crime										
Apparent circumstances ²	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Acquaintance											
Quarrel, revenge or loss of temper	255	252	177	221	227	194	215	219	171	208	213
In furtherance of theft or gain	11	14	7	7	15	11	20	14	16	12	14
Attributed to acts of terrorism ⁴	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
While attempting to restrain or arrest individual ⁵	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
The result of offences of arson	1	1	1	2	4	1	7	6	4	5	5
Other circumstances ⁶	37	32	43	61	59	55	35	53	35	58	81
Irrational act ⁷	30	18	16	12	19	26	23	26	10	13	18
Not known ⁸	51	83	119	111	88	116	111	108	104	89	89
Total	385	400	363	414	412	403	411	426	340	385	420
Stranger ³											
Quarrel, revenge or loss of temper	73	73	73	89	115	98	103	96	75	106	128
In furtherance of theft or gain	32	30	26	83	47	36	31	28	22	15	33
Attributed to acts of terrorism ⁴	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	52	-	-
While attempting to restrain or arrest individual ⁵	1	-	2	2	-	4	1	-	1	-	2
The result of offences of arson	2	-	3	4	6	9	5	16	7	6	6
Other circumstances ⁶	31	48	51	51	63	234	78	57	51	52	72
Irrational act ⁷	3	3	1	-	4	5	4	8	4	11	5
Not known ⁸	82	92	153	130	161	164	143	153	171	167	97
Total	224	246	312	359	396	550	365	358	383	357	343
All relationships ³											
Quarrel, revenge or loss of temper	328	325	250	310	342	292	318	315	246	314	341
In furtherance of theft or gain	43	44	33	90	62	47	51	42	38	27	47
Attributed to acts of terrorism ⁴	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	52	-	-
While attempting to restrain or arrest individual ⁵	1	-	2	2	-	4	1	-	1	-	2
The result of offences of arson	3	1	4	6	10	10	12	22	11	11	11
Other circumstances ⁶	68	80	94	112	122	289	113	110	86	110	153
Irrational act ⁷	33	21	17	12	23	31	27	34	14	24	23
Not known ⁸	133	175	272	241	249	280	254	261	275	256	186
Total	609	646	675	773	808	953	776	784	723	742	763

1. As at 4 November 2008; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.
2. In some cases, the circumstances of a homicide could be classified in more than one row in the table and an assessment has been made of the principal circumstances, against which the offence is shown. New categories were introduced on the Homicide Index on 1 April 2007 and retrospective data have been incorporated into new categories.
3. Including cases where there is no suspect.
4. Offences 'attributed to acts of terrorism' include all bombings and political assassinations so attributed even where there is no individual suspect and also other homicides where there are strong grounds for believing that the killers were terrorists. All 52 homicides recorded in 2005/06 relate to the 7 July London bombings.
5. Homicides 'while attempting to restrain or arrest individual' only include cases where a police officer or a person actively assisting a police officer was killed. Cases in which an innocent bystander was killed during an arrest, or where it is thought that a member of the public may have been killed while attempting to apprehend the killer for some offence when no police officer was present, are included in 'other circumstances'.
6. It is not possible to show separately offences committed in the course of furtherance of a sexual attack as there is often insufficient information available.
7. The presented category 'irrational act' no longer includes cases where circumstances were considered to be 'motiveless'.
8. Includes cases where no rational motive has been identified. Where no suspect has been found it is not always possible to establish the circumstances in which a homicide was committed or the reason for its commission.

Table 1.07 Offences currently¹ recorded as homicide by age and sex of victim: England and Wales, 1997/98 to 2007/08

Protect - Statistics

Numbers		Recorded crime										
Age	Sex	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01 ²	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05 ³	2005/06 ⁴	2006/07 ⁵	2007/08
Under 1 year	Male	19	19	18	25	11	14	19	11	14	10	14
	Female	10	18	13	23	5	19	8	11	9	6	10
	Total	29	37	31	48	16	33	27	22	23	16	24
1 and under 5 years	Male	7	13	7	14	14	15	10	12	5	16	13
	Female	9	7	4	6	5	11	9	8	4	9	8
	Total	16	20	11	20	19	26	19	20	9	25	21
5 and under 16 years	Male	16	13	14	20	20	10	16	9	9	17	16
	Female	10	11	9	10	7	24	10	10	9	10	8
	Total	26	24	23	30	27	34	26	19	18	27	24
16 and under 30 years	Male	117	133	149	161	183	154	172	186	167	186	189
	Female	56	47	49	60	63	59	54	60	76	52	51
	Total	173	180	198	221	246	213	226	246	243	238	240
30 and under 50 years	Male	162	158	183	195	228	214	231	198	185	220	228
	Female	71	60	76	82	92	83	72	73	90	73	69
	Total	233	218	259	277	320	297	303	271	275	293	297
50 and under 70 years	Male	65	73	60	57	76	72	84	96	76	77	81
	Female	28	37	31	20	37	61	39	36	28	28	33
	Total	93	110	91	77	113	133	123	132	104	105	114
70 years and over	Male	14	21	18	18	27	62	21	30	23	21	14
	Female	25	36	44	24	40	155	30	31	26	16	29
	Total	39	57	62	42	67	217	51	61	49	37	43
Total all ages	Male	400	430	449	544	559	541	554	554	479	547	555
	%	66	67	67	70	69	57	71	71	66	74	73
	Female	209	216	226	229	249	412	222	230	244	195	208
	%	34	33	33	30	31	43	29	29	34	26	27
	TOTAL	609	646	675	773 ²	808	953	776	784 ³	723 ⁴	742 ⁵	763

Rates per million population

Under 1 year	Male	57	59	56	81	37	46	61	34	43	30	40
	Female	32	59	43	78	17	66	27	36	29	19	30
	Total	45	59	50	80	27	56	44	35	36	24	36
1 and under 5 years	Male	5	10	5	11	11	12	8	10	4	13	10
	Female	7	6	3	5	4	9	8	7	3	7	6
	Total	6	8	4	8	8	11	8	8	4	10	8
5 and under 16 years	Male	4	3	4	5	5	3	4	2	2	5	4
	Female	3	3	2	3	2	7	3	3	3	3	2
	Total	4	3	3	4	4	5	4	3	2	4	3
16 and under 30 years	Male	25	29	32	35	40	33	37	39	34	37	37
	Female	12	10	11	13	14	13	12	13	16	11	10
	Total	18	19	21	24	27	23	24	26	25	24	24
30 and under 50 years	Male	22	22	25	26	30	28	30	26	24	29	30
	Female	10	8	10	11	12	11	9	9	12	9	9
	Total	16	15	17	19	21	19	20	18	18	19	19
50 and under 70 years	Male	12	14	11	10	14	13	15	17	13	13	14
	Female	5	7	5	3	6	10	7	6	5	5	5
	Total	9	10	8	7	10	12	11	11	9	9	9
70 years and over	Male	6	9	8	8	11	25	9	12	9	8	5
	Female	7	10	12	7	11	43	8	9	7	4	8
	Total	7	10	10	7	11	36	8	10	8	6	7
Total all ages	Male	16	17	18	22	22	21	21	21	18	21	21
	Female	8	8	9	9	9	15	8	8	9	7	8
	TOTAL	12	13	13	15	15	18	15	15	14	14	14

1. As at 4 November 2008; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and the courts, or as further information becomes available.

2. For the year 2000/01 there were 58 victims (54 male and 4 female) age not known.

3. For the year 2004/05 there were 13 victims of unknown age.

4. For the year 2005/06 there were 2 victims of unknown age.

5. For the year 2006/07 there was 1 victim of unknown age.

Table 1.08 Suspects convicted of homicide¹ by type of homicide: England and Wales, 1969 to 2007/08

Numbers		Recorded crime				
Year offence initially recorded	Total indicted for homicide	Convicted of homicide				Infanticide
		Total	Murder	Section 2 manslaughter	Other manslaughter	
1969	367	271	78	58	122	13
1970	386	299	99	65	120	15
1971	418	327	91	72	146	18
1972	450	337	85	85	150	17
1973	427	321	83	77	152	9
1974	537	424	125	96	188	15
1975	503	383	99	77	203	4
1976	530	394	108	92	188	6
1977	457	362	116	94	146	6
1978	529	424	137	90	189	8
1979	595	475	169	109	190	7
1980	537	423	140	88	186	9
1981	543	448	167	87	187	7
1982	525	441	161	102	172	6
1983	523	417	153	80	174	10
1984	579	451	171	77	201	2
1985	595	457	166	76	207	8
1986	662	506	208	84	211	3
1987	677	515	216	78	220	1
1988	642	493	189	74	222	8
1989	633	458	198	83	176	1
1990	625	443	186	70	183	4
1991	711	502	197	76	224	5
1992	708	504	215	78	205	6
1993	681	501	224	62	210	5
1994	652	495	230	71	191	3
1995	748	558	278	53	224	3
1996	727	534	261	50	219	4
1997	709	509	250	47	209	3
1997/98	707	520	235	49	232	4
1998/99	748	528	254	41	226	7
1999/00	774	530	278	27	224	1
2000/01	793	574	288	18	263	5
2001/02	819	648	321	19	307	1
2002/03	829	603	331	13	259	-
2003/04	863	627	353	21	253	-
2004/05	859	653	384	21	247	1
2005/06	670	537	346	25	165	1
2006/07	625	470	280	32	158	-
2007/08 ²	384	305	181	9	115	-

1. As at 4 November 2008; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and the courts, or as further information becomes available.

2. In addition there were 519 suspects in 2007/08 for whom court proceedings were not completed by 4 November 2008.

Table 1.09 Suspects indicted for homicide by outcome of proceedings¹: England and Wales, 1997/98 to 2007/08

Protect - Statistics

Numbers										Recorded crime	
Indictment and outcome	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Male suspects											
Indictment											
Murder	508	548	600	573	640	630	650	646	522	467	294
Manslaughter	113	102	106	127	108	109	115	128	96	97	44
Infanticide	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Total	621	650	706	700	748	739	765	774	618	564	338
Outcome:											
Not convicted of homicide ²											
Not tried - count to remain on file ³	7	9	11	10	2	1	5	3	1	2	-
Found unfit to plead	2	-	2	4	1	2	4	-	-	1	2
Found not guilty by reason of insanity	4	3	2	1	-	1	1	-	1	2	1
Convicted of lesser offence	19	32	31	22	17	21	17	26	14	28	13
Acquitted on all counts	130	128	170	150	131	164	166	144	99	100	46
Committed suicide or died	-	2	2	1	2	2	4	6	-	3	3
Total	162	174	218	188	153	191	197	179	115	136	65
Convicted of homicide:											
Murder	224	238	266	270	307	311	329	359	334	263	168
Sec. 2 manslaughter	38	35	21	15	15	12	19	20	25	30	8
Other manslaughter	197	203	201	227	273	225	220	216	144	135	97
Infanticide	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Total	459	476	488	512	595	548	568	595	503	428	273
Total	621	650	706	700	748	739	765	774	618	564	338
Female suspects											
Indictment											
Murder	57	78	58	65	55	67	75	56	31	42	35
Manslaughter	28	16	10	24	14	22	23	28	18	18	11
Infanticide	1	4		1	1	1	-	1	2	-	-
Total	86	98	68	90	70	90	98	85	51	60	46
Outcome:											
Not convicted of homicide ²											
Not tried - count to remain on file ³	1	3	1	3	1	2	4	1	1	1	-
Found unfit to plead	-	1	1	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	-
Found not guilty by reason of insanity	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Convicted of lesser offence	4	9	3	2	2	3	1	3	4	3	3
Acquitted on all counts	20	33	21	22	15	29	28	23	11	14	9
Committed suicide or died	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	2
Total	25	46	26	28	18	35	39	27	17	18	14
Convicted of homicide:											
Murder	11	16	12	18	14	20	24	25	12	17	13
Sec. 2 manslaughter	11	6	6	3	4	1	2	1	-	2	1
Other manslaughter	35	23	23	36	33	34	33	31	21	23	18
Infanticide	4	7	1	5	1	-	-	1	1	-	-
Total	61	52	42	62	52	55	59	58	34	42	32
Total	86	98	68	90	70	90	98	85	51	60	46

Table 1.09 (continued)

Protect - Statistics

Numbers									Recorded crime		
Indictment and outcome	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
All suspects											
Indictment ⁴											
Murder	565	626	658	638	695	697	725	702	553	509	329
Manslaughter ⁵	141	118	116	154	123	131	138	156	115	116	55
Infanticide	1	4	-	1	1	1	-	1	2	-	-
Total	707	748	774	793	819	829	863	859	670	625	384
Outcome:											
Not convicted of homicide ²											
Not tried - count to remain on file ³	8	12	12	13	3	3	9	4	2	3	-
Found unfit to plead	2	1	3	5	1	3	4	-	1	1	2
Found not guilty by reason of insanity	4	3	2	1	-	1	3	-	1	2	1
Convicted of lesser offence	23	41	34	25	19	24	18	29	19	31	16
Acquitted on all counts	150	161	191	174	146	193	194	167	110	115	55
Committed suicide or died	-	2	2	1	2	2	8	6	-	3	5
Total	187	220	244	219	171	226	236	206	133	155	79
Convicted of homicide:											
Murder	235	254	278	288	321	331	353	384	346	280	181
Sec. 2 manslaughter	49	41	27	18	19	13	21	21	25	32	9
Other manslaughter	232	226	224	263	307	259	253	247	165	158	115
Infanticide	4	7	1	5	1	-	-	1	1	-	-
Total	520	528	530	574	648	603	627	653	537	470	305
Total	707	748	774	793	819	829	863	859	670	625	384

1. As at 4 November 2008; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and the courts, or as further information becomes available.

2. The offences for which these persons were indicted may nevertheless remain currently recorded as homicide.

3. This usually implies that the suspect has been dealt with for some less serious offence.

4. In addition there were 519 suspects in 2007/08, for whom court proceedings were not completed by 4 November 2008.

5. Three corporate manslaughters were included in 2000/01, one in 2001/02 and one in 2005/06.

Table 1.10 Suspects convicted of homicide by type of homicide and sentence¹: England and Wales, 1997/98 to 2007/08

Numbers		Recorded crime									
Sentence ²	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Male suspects											
Murder											
Life imprisonment ³	224	238	266	270	307	311	329	359	334	263	168
Section 2 manslaughter⁴											
Immediate imprisonment ⁵											
Life ³	2	6	3	-	1	1	2	2	2	5	-
Over 10 years (excluding life)	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Over 4 and up to 10 years	8	3	4	4	1	2	4	5	-	3	-
4 years and under	2	-	2	1	2	2	5	2	7	3	1
Fully suspended sentence	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Hospital/Restriction Order	24	22	7	5	6	1	4	6	11	15	4
Hospital Order	1	1	3	2	5	5	3	3	4	4	2
Probation/Supervision	1	2	2	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Other sentence	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Total	38	35	21	15	15	12	19	20	25	30	8
Other manslaughter											
Immediate imprisonment ⁵											
Life ³	8	8	15	9	16	8	10	14	11	13	1
Over 10 years (excluding life)	6	7	4	5	11	6	6	12	5	3	4
Over 4 and up to 10 years	86	86	89	104	123	110	104	85	52	63	49
4 years and under	81	85	77	93	86	70	77	86	74	50	39
Fully suspended sentence	7	5	1	6	5	2	1	5	-	-	-
Hospital/Restriction Order	1	5	6	3	7	11	11	10	1	2	2
Hospital Order	2	1	2	5	12	13	10	4	1	4	1
Probation/Supervision	5	4	7	2	9	5	1	-	-	-	-
Other sentence	1	2	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	1
Total	197	203	201	227	273	225	220	216	144	135	97
Infanticide											
Immediate imprisonment ⁵											
4 years and under	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Hospital/Restriction Order	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Hospital Order	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Probation/Supervision	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Other sentence	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Total	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Total⁴	459	476	488	512	595	548	568	595	503	428	273

Table 1.10 (continued)

Protect - Statistics

Numbers	Recorded crime										
Sentence ²	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Female suspects											
Murder											
Life imprisonment ³	11	16	12	18	14	20	24	25	12	17	13
Section 2 manslaughter											
Immediate imprisonment ⁵											
Life ³	-	1	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
Over 10 years (excluding life)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Over 4 and up to 10 years	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4 years and under	-	1	1	1	2	-	1	-	-	1	-
Fully suspended sentence	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Hospital/Restriction Order	6	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Hospital Order	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Probation/Supervision	3	2	3	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Other sentence	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	11	6	6	3	4	1	2	1	-	2	1
Other manslaughter											
Immediate imprisonment ⁵											
Life ³	1	1	2	-	1	1	-	1	1	2	-
Over 10 years (excluding life)	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	1	-	1
Over 4 and up to 10 years	9	5	-	10	12	7	14	11	7	9	5
4 years and under	14	7	12	16	10	17	11	10	10	9	11
Fully suspended sentence	1	2	-	1	1	-	4	1	-	-	-
Hospital/Restriction Order	-	1	1	1	-	2	2	1	1	1	-
Hospital Order	-	-	-	3	3	2	-	-	1	-	1
Probation/Supervision	10	7	8	4	5	5	1	5	-	-	-
Other sentence	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-
Total	35	23	23	36	33	34	33	31	21	23	18
Infanticide											
Immediate imprisonment ⁵											
4 years and under	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hospital/Restriction Order	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hospital Order	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Probation/Supervision	2	5	1	4	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
Other sentence	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Total	4	7	1	5	1	-	-	1	1	-	-
Total	61	52	42	62	52	55	59	58	34	42	32

Table 1.10 (continued)

Protect - Statistics

Numbers	Recorded crime										
Sentence ²	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
All suspects											
Murder											
Life imprisonment ³	235	254	278	288	321	331	353	384	346	280	181
Section 2 manslaughter ⁴											
Immediate imprisonment ⁵											
Life ³	2	7	4	-	2	1	3	2	2	5	-
Over 10 years (excluding life)	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Over 4 and up to 10 years	9	3	4	5	1	2	4	5	-	3	-
4 years and under	2	1	3	2	4	2	6	2	7	4	1
Fully suspended sentence	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	1
Hospital/Restriction Order	30	24	7	5	6	1	4	6	11	16	5
Hospital Order	2	1	4	2	6	5	3	3	4	4	2
Probation/Supervision	4	4	5	2	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Other sentence	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Total	49	41	27	18	19	13	21	21	25	32	9
Other manslaughter											
Immediate imprisonment ⁵											
Life ³	9	9	17	9	17	9	10	15	12	15	1
Over 10 years (excluding life)	6	7	4	6	12	6	7	12	6	3	5
Over 4 and up to 10 years	95	91	89	114	135	117	118	96	59	72	54
4 years and under	95	92	89	109	96	87	88	96	84	59	50
Fully suspended sentence	8	7	1	7	6	2	5	6	-	-	-
Hospital/Restriction Order	1	6	7	4	7	13	13	11	2	3	2
Hospital Order	2	1	2	8	15	15	10	4	2	4	2
Probation/Supervision	15	11	15	6	14	10	2	5	-	-	-
Other sentence	1	2	-	-	5	-	-	2	-	2	1
Total	232	226	224	263	307	259	253	247	165	158	115
Infanticide											
Immediate imprisonment ⁵											
4 years and under	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hospital/Restriction Order	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hospital Order	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Probation/Supervision	2	5	1	4	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
Other sentence	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Total	4	7	1	5	1	-	-	1	1	-	-
Total ⁴	520	528	530	574	648	603	627	653	537	470	305

1. As at 4 November 2008; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.

2. The results of appeals, apart from those occurring since the beginning of 1997, have been taken into account in compiling this table.

3. Including detention during Her Majesty's Pleasure under s.53(1) Children and Young Persons Act 1933 and custody for life.

4. In addition, one suspect was convicted of Sec2 manslaughter but died before sentencing for an offence recorded in 2005/06.

5. Including detention under s.53(2) Children and Young Persons Act 1933, partly suspended sentences and young offender institution.

Table 1.11 Suspects convicted of homicide by year of offence¹: England and Wales, 1997/98 to 2007/08

Numbers		Recorded crime									
Year offence initially recorded	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Total number convicted of homicide	520	528	530	574	648	603	627	653	537	470	305
Number previously convicted of homicide:	1 ²	1	8 ²	1 ³	-	2 ²	3	4	8 ²	2 ²	- ²
While serving sentence for homicide	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
After release or termination of sentence for previous homicide conviction	1	1	6	1	-	1	3	4	8	2	-

1. As at 4 November 2008; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.

2. In addition, one suspect of an offence who committed suicide had previously been convicted of homicide.

3. In addition, one suspect of an offence who died had previously been convicted of homicide.

Table 1.12 Suspects convicted of homicide who had previously been convicted of homicide by type of homicide¹: England and Wales, 1997/98 to 2007/08

Numbers		Recorded crime		
Homicide offence of latest conviction	Total	Homicide offence of previous conviction		
		Murder	Section 2 Manslaughter	Other Manslaughter
Murder	24	9	3	12
Section 2 manslaughter	2	1	1	-
Other manslaughter	4	-	-	4
Total	30	10 ²	4 ³	16 ⁴

1. As at 4 November 2008; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.

2. In addition, four suspects who committed suicide had previously been convicted for murder.

3. In addition, one suspect who died had previously been convicted of Section 2 manslaughter.

4. In addition, two suspects who committed suicide had previously been convicted for other manslaughter.

Protect - Statistics

Table 1.13 Currently recorded homicides by region and police force area: England and Wales, 2003/04 to 2007/08

Police force area						Recorded crime
	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06 ²	2006/07	2007/08	Offences per million population 2007/08
North East Region						
Cleveland	6	6	5	4	8	14.3
Durham	2	2	8	11	7	11.6
Northumbria	22	15	16	25	29	20.7
North West Region						
Cheshire	11	10	14	8	9	9.0
Cumbria	4	7	2	-	3	6.0
Gtr Manchester	53	56	52	56	49	19.1
Lancashire	54	29	12	23	21	14.5
Merseyside	30	42	25	24	31	23.0
Yorkshire and the Humber						
Humberside	19	13	10	18	12	13.2
North Yorkshire	7	12	4	2	4	5.1
South Yorkshire	12	16	21	21	28	21.5
West Yorkshire	39	39	35	43	46	21.1
East Midlands Region						
Derbyshire	14	8	5	10	7	7.0
Leicestershire	17	8	6	13	12	12.3
Lincolnshire	4	2	4	6	11	15.9
Northamptonshire	5	3	10	14	8	11.8
Nottinghamshire	17	19	15	14	12	11.3
West Midlands Region						
Staffordshire	11	5	11	12	13	12.2
Warwickshire	5	4	8	5	6	11.4
West Mercia	16	11	6	16	11	9.3
West Midlands	45	66	49	42	41	15.7
East of England Region						
Bedfordshire	7	7	9	9	10	16.8
Cambridgeshire	8	13	10	7	7	9.2
Essex	10	11	20	22	15	8.9
Hertfordshire	10	11	9	10	8	7.5
Norfolk	8	2	11	5	8	9.5
Suffolk	9	5	5	10	7	9.9
London Region	187	178	171	166	162	21.4
South East Region						
Hampshire	17	17	10	18	19	10.3
Kent	13	13	15	16	17	10.3
Surrey	6	10	10	2	9	8.2
Sussex	15	20	14	12	11	7.2
Thames Valley	20	25	21	23	17	7.8
South West Region						
Avon and Somerset	16	15	9	11	16	10.1
Devon and Cornwall	16	25	15	17	22	13.2
Dorset	8	6	2	6	7	9.9
Gloucestershire	6	8	2	3	4	6.9
Wiltshire	3	6	7	4	8	12.5
Wales						
Dyfed-Powys	-	4	3	2	10	19.7
Gwent	5	10	5	7	11	19.6
North Wales	3	12	6	6	8	11.8
South Wales	15	13	9	16	16	13.0
British Transport Police³	1	-	42	3	3	*
ENGLAND AND WALES	776	784	723	742	763	14.1
ENGLAND AND WALES (excluding London Region)	589	606	552	576	601	12.9

1. As at 4 November 2008; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.

2. Year 2005/06 includes 52 victims of the 7 July London bombings: 39 recorded by British Transport Police, 13 by the Metropolitan Police Service (included in London total).

3. BTP initially recorded 10 homicides for 2004/05; full details of which were unavailable as at 4 November 2008.

Protect - Statistics

2 Recorded crimes involving firearms

Peter Kaiza

SUMMARY

This chapter deals with crimes recorded by the police that involve the use of a firearm. Firearms are taken to be involved in a crime if they are fired, used as a blunt instrument against a person, or used as a threat. Types of firearm include air weapons, imitation weapons, rifles, shotguns and handguns, as well as CS gas and pepper sprays. Some headline figures, however, exclude air weapons.

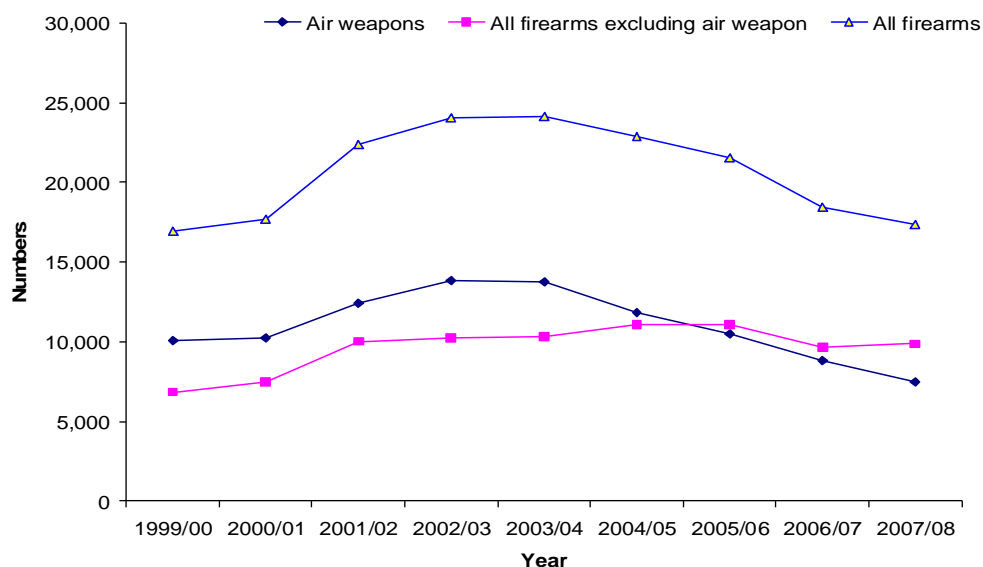
- Firearms (including air weapons) were reported to have been used in 17,343 recorded crimes in 2007/08. This is six per cent down on 2006/07, and the fourth consecutive annual fall. Firearm offences (excluding air weapons) were up by two per cent to 9,865, following a 13 per cent fall in the previous year.
- There were 2,562 offences in which the weapon was classified as an imitation in 2007/08, a two per cent increase compared to 2006/07. There were 4,172 handgun offences in 2007/08, virtually unchanged from 2006/07.
- Serious or fatal injury accounted for three per cent of all firearm crimes in 2007/08. There were 541 such injuries (including 53 fatalities) resulting from crimes that involved a firearm (including air weapons), four per cent fewer than in 2006/07.
- Firearm crimes involving any type of injury increased by two per cent in 2007/08, from 4,065 in 2006/07 to 4,164 in 2007/08. There was an 11 per cent increase in the number of offences involving handguns causing injury in 2007/08, following a 23 per cent decrease in the previous year.
- Weapons (excluding air weapons) were fired in 39 per cent of firearm crimes. Handguns were fired in ten per cent of the offences where they were involved, and shotguns in 38 per cent.
- The number of firearm robberies increased by one per cent in 2007/08, having fallen by three per cent in the previous year. Thirty-three per cent of these were committed in public highways, the number of which decreased by ten per cent from 1,457 in 2006/07 to 1,314 in 2007/08.
- Twenty-seven per cent of victims of firearm-related offences (excluding air weapons) in 2007/08 were aged between 30 and 49, followed by 21- to 29-year-olds who were victims in 22 per cent of the crimes. Persons aged less than five and over 69 years were victims in 0.3 and one per cent of the crimes respectively.
- Fifty-six per cent of all firearm offences (excluding air weapons) in 2007/08 occurred in just three police force areas: Metropolitan, Greater Manchester and West Midlands.
- Overall, firearms (including air weapons) were used in 0.4 per cent of all recorded crimes, or one in every 250. This proportion is halved when air weapons are excluded.

Protect - Statistics

2.1 FIREARM CRIMES IN 2007/08

Firearms (including air weapons) were used in 17,343 recorded crimes in England and Wales in 2007/08, a fall of six per cent or 1,138 crimes compared to 2006/07. This is the fourth consecutive fall in firearm crimes; the 2006/07 fall was by 14 per cent (Table 2.03; Figure 2.1).

Figure 2.1 Crimes reported to the police in which a firearm has been used, 1999/00 to 2007/08



Forty-three per cent of firearm offences involved air weapons. Of these air weapon offences, 77 per cent were crimes of criminal damage, i.e. crimes against property only (Table 2.04). Some of the increases in recorded air weapon offences over previous years can be partly attributed to changes in police recording practice, as described in the box below.

There were 9,865 recorded crimes involving firearms other than air weapons. This is a two per cent increase over 2006/07. There were 7,478 crimes involving air weapons in 2007/08, a 15 per cent fall over 2006/07 and the smallest total since the 1980s. This fall coincides with the recent tightening of legislation on the manufacture and sale of certain types of air weapon. (Figure 2.1; Table 2.03).

Gun crime remains a relatively rare event. Firearms (including air weapons) were used in 0.4 per cent of all recorded crime: that is nearly one in every 250 crimes. The proportion excluding air weapons was 0.2 per cent, or about one in every 500. Injury caused during a firearm offence is also rare. As will be shown later, only a fifth of firearm offences resulted in an injury and about three per cent resulted in a serious or fatal injury.

Box 2.1 Impact Of Changes In Police Recording Practice

The implementation of the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) by police forces on 1 April 2002 increased the number of crimes recorded in 2002/03 and, as a result of audits to further improve recording, in 2003/04 and 2004/05 too. It has not been possible to assess accurately the effect of this change on recorded firearm crimes. This change inflated the overall number of violence against the person and criminal damage offences but had less effect on the number of robberies (see Simmons et al., 2003). Many firearm offences are amongst the categories that are most likely to have been affected by the NCRS.

2.2 HOW FIREARMS WERE USED **Protect - Statistics**

Firearms can be used to threaten, or as a blunt instrument, as well as being fired. Air weapons were nearly always fired in the crimes in which they were involved (92% of crimes), but rarely caused serious injury. In contrast, other firearms were more often used as a threat or, occasionally, as a blunt instrument (Figure 2.2); non-air weapons were fired in 39 per cent of cases. Nearly half (48%) of non-air weapon firings involved imitation firearms that fire blanks, pellets and so on. These offences involving firing imitation firearms account for 73 per cent of all offences involving imitation weapons. In contrast, handguns were fired in ten per cent of crimes in which they were involved while shotguns were fired in 38 per cent of cases (Table 2a; Table 2.05).

Figure 2.2 How firearms were used, 2007/08

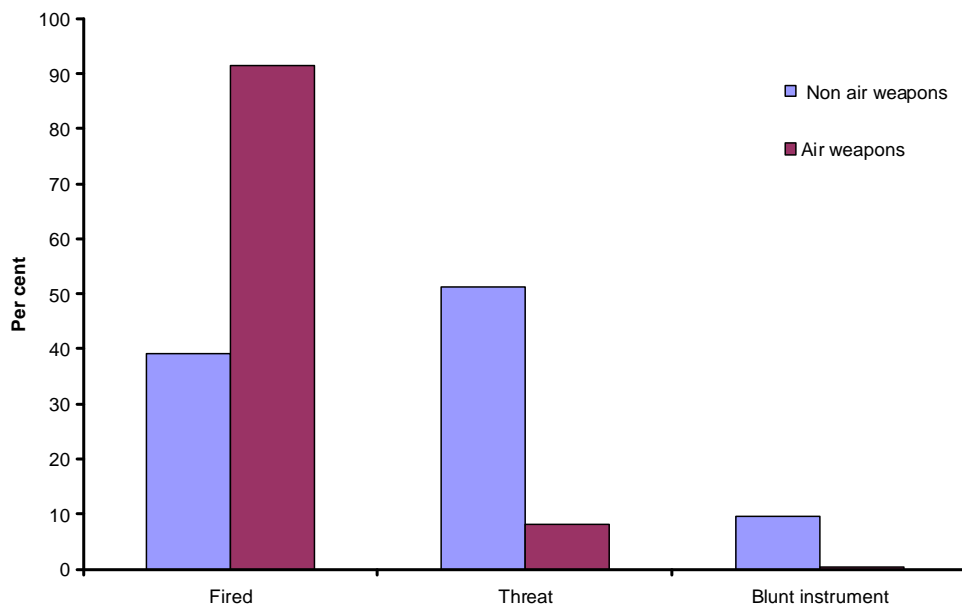


Table 2a Crimes in which firearms were used, by type of firearm, whether fired, and degree of injury caused, 2007/08

Weapon type	Number	% fired	% not fired ¹	Of those fired		
				% Fatal or serious injury	% Slight injury	% No injury
Shotguns	602	38	62	27	15	57
Handguns	4,172	10	90	36	21	43
Imitation firearm	2,562	73	27	1	55	44
Rifles/others ²	2,529	53	47	11	57	32
Air weapons	7,478	92	8	1	12	87

1. Includes incidents in which firearms were used as a blunt instrument to cause injury (see Table 2.5).

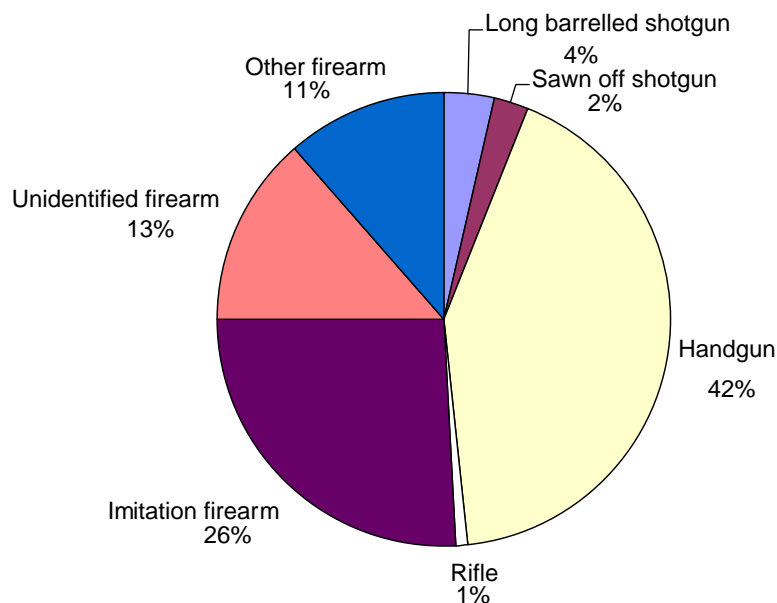
2. Starting guns, supposed/type unknown, prohibited firearms (including CS gas) and other firearms.

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2.3 TYPE OF WEAPON USED

It is not always possible to categorise the type of weapon used in an offence. For example, one cannot always be certain if a crime involved a real firearm. Unless a weapon is either fired or recovered after a crime, there is no way of knowing if it was real or an imitation (or whether it was loaded or unloaded). The categorisation of firearms will often depend on descriptions by victims or witnesses. Some crimes involve 'supposed' firearms (i.e. something concealed which was presumed to be a firearm).

Figure 2.3 Types of weapon used in non-air weapon firearm crimes, England and Wales, 2007/08

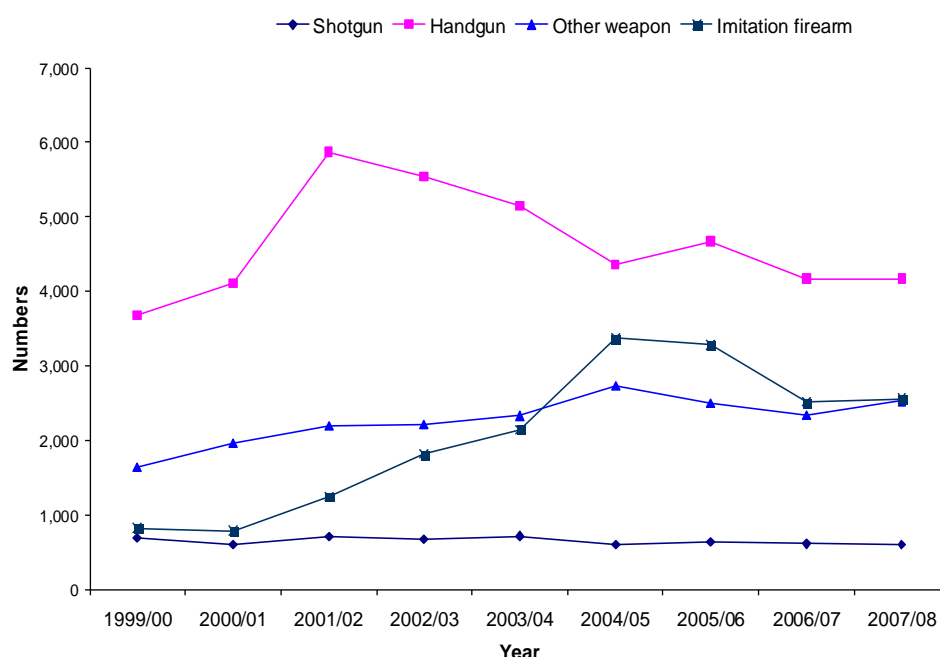


As stated earlier, under half (43%) of all firearm offences involved an air weapon. Of those offences involving a firearm other than an air weapon, 42 per cent involved a handgun (Figure 2.3). These handgun crimes remained almost unchanged (from 4,173 to 4,172) in 2007/08 compared to 2006/07; this followed an 11 per cent decrease from the previous year. Handgun crimes reached a peak of 5,874 in 2001/02 but have fallen in five out of the six years since then, an overall fall of 29 per cent. Shotgun crimes were down by two per cent (from 612 to 602) from 2006/07 to 2007/08 (Figure 2.4; Table 2.03).

Imitation firearms were used in 26 per cent of non-air weapon offences. The number of crimes involving these weapons was up two per cent in 2007/08, after a 23 per cent fall in the previous year. This follows a four-fold increase, from 787 in 2000/01 to a peak of 3,373 in 2004/05. The category of imitation firearms also includes BB guns/soft air weapons, deactivated firearms and blank firers. BB guns/soft air weapons accounted for 83 per cent of all imitation weapons, with 2,124 offences recorded in 2007/08, up one per cent from the previous year. Imitation handguns accounted for a further 13 per cent (322 offences). (Table 2.03).

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Figure 2.4 Firearm offences by type of principal weapon, 1999/00 to 2007/08



2.4 INJURIES IN CRIMES INVOLVING FIREARMS

In 2007/08, 24 per cent of crimes involving firearms (including air weapons) caused injury, either because they were fired or used as a blunt instrument (4,164 offences) (Table 2.07). This compares with 22 per cent in 2006/07, and represents an increase of two per cent in the number of injuries resulting from firearm offences.

Crimes involving handguns, shotguns and other non-air weapons caused injury in 21 per cent, 26 per cent and 43 per cent of incidents respectively (Table 2.03; Table 2.07). Most of the non-air weapons were imitation firearms, where over 98 per cent of the injuries were slight. Though air weapons were most likely to be fired, they caused injury in only 12 per cent of crimes, and in the vast majority of these cases (91%) the injury incurred was slight (Table 2.07).

There were 53 fatal injuries involving firearms in 2007/08, down ten per cent from 59 offences recorded in 2006/07, and the second lowest total since 1998/99. All but one of the fatalities involved a weapon being fired; a weapon was used as a blunt instrument in the other one. Seventy-four per cent of the fatalities involved the use of a handgun. There were a further 488 firearm crimes that resulted in serious injury, down four per cent from 507 in 2006/07. Overall, 541 offences resulted in serious or fatal injury, down four per cent or 25 crimes on 2006/07. However, they account for only three per cent of all firearm crimes in 2007/08 (Table 2.07; Table 2b).

The harm caused by different types of firearm can be seen by the proportion of those that are fired that cause injury. Table 2a shows, by type of firearm, the percentage which were fired and not fired, and the percentage of offences where injury was caused *if they were fired* (more detailed figures are in Table 2.05). Handguns were fired in only ten per cent of cases, but *if they were fired*, more than a third of cases resulted in a fatal or serious injury. The overall number of handgun injuries increased by 11 per cent from 792 in 2006/07 to 881 in 2007/08. Shotguns were

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fired in 38 per cent of cases and, if they were fired, more than a quarter of cases resulted in a fatal or serious injury. In contrast, air weapons, when fired, resulted in a fatal or serious injury in only one per cent of cases and resulted in no injury in 87 per cent of cases. The number of air weapon fatal or serious injuries decreased by 12 per cent from the previous year (Table 2b).

Table 2b Crimes recorded by the police in England and Wales in which firearms were used¹ resulting in injury, by degree of injury, 1999/00 to 2007/08

Year	Non-air weapons				Air weapons				Total injuries
	Total	Fatal injury	Serious injury ²	Slight injury	Total	Fatal injury	Serious injury	Slight injury	
1999/00	1,195	62	200	933	1,977	-	171	1,806	3,172
2000/01	1,382	72	244	1,066	1,821	1	166	1,654	3,203
2001/02	1,877	96	392	1,391	1,915	2	165	1,748	3,792
2002/03	2,179	80	416	1,683	2,377	1	156	2,220	4,556
2003/04	2,367	68	437	1,862	2,395	-	157	2,238	4,762
2004/05	3,900	76	412	3,412	1,498	1	144	1,353	5,398
2005/06	3,822	49	476	3,297	1,182	1	119	1,062	5,004
2006/07	3,011	56	412	2,543	1,054	3	95	956	4,065
2007/08	3,241	53	402	2,786	923	-	86	837	4,164

1. By weapon being fired, used as a blunt instrument or in a threat.

2. A serious injury is one which necessitated detention in hospital or involved fractures, concussion, severe general shock, penetration by a bullet or multiple shot wounds.

3. More explicit guidelines for the classification of weapons, introduced on 1 April 2004, may have increased the recording of firearm offences, particularly those committed by imitation weapons.

In 2007/08, 4,164 firearm injuries were reported, two per cent higher than the previous year. Firearm crimes which resulted in injuries more than doubled in seven years to 2005/06 and the largest rise was seen in crimes involving non-air weapons. These injuries reached their peak in 2004/05 at 5,398.

Injuries to police officers

One police officer was killed and three seriously injured by a firearm while on duty in 2007/08. CS gas sprays accounted for 15 injuries or 63 per cent of the total. The overall total of 24 is the highest since figures first appeared in the Home Office's gun crime statistics in 1988. However, the figures are still very small, and some variability from year to year is to be expected (Table 2c).

Table 2c Crimes recorded by the police in which a police officer on duty was injured by a firearm (excluding air weapons), 1997/98 to 2007/08

Year	Total	Fatal injury	Serious injury ¹	Slight injury
1997/98	6	-	3	3
1998/99	11	-	-	11
1999/00	10	-	-	10
2000/01	7	-	5	2
2001/02	10	-	-	10
2002/03	12	-	1	11
2003/04	14	1	3	10
2004/05	23	-	2	21
2005/06	23	1	6	16
2006/07	21	-	3	18
2007/08	24	1	3	20

1. A serious injury is one which necessitated detention in hospital or involved fractures, concussion, severe general shock, penetration by a bullet or multiple shot wounds.

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2.5 TYPES OF CRIMES WHERE FIREARMS ARE USED

Although the crime types in firearm crimes are fairly evenly split between violence (including robbery) and non-violent property crime, the distribution varies markedly between non-air weapons (where violence predominates) and air weapons (which are mostly criminal damage offences).

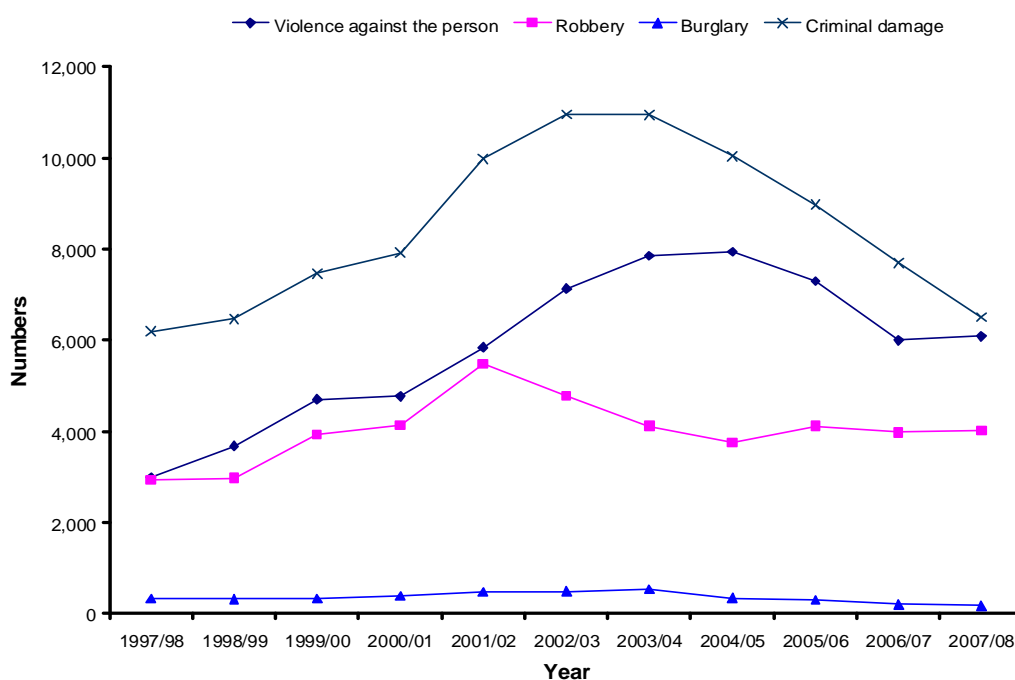
Violence against the person (VAP) and robbery offences accounted for over half (58%) of recorded crimes where firearms were used, with VAP contributing 35 per cent and robbery 23 per cent. The number of robberies involving firearms rose by nearly one per cent in 2007/08, after a three per cent fall in 2006/07 (Figure 2.5).

Criminal damage made up 38 per cent of overall firearm offences (Table 2.01), but this proportion ranges from eight per cent of non-air weapon offences to 77 per cent of air weapon offences (Table 2.04).

Robberies accounted for 40 per cent of non-air weapon offences (as in 2006/07) and VAP offences accounted for 48 per cent (up from 46 per cent in 2006/07). VAP includes homicide, which made up 0.5 per cent of all non-air weapon crimes.

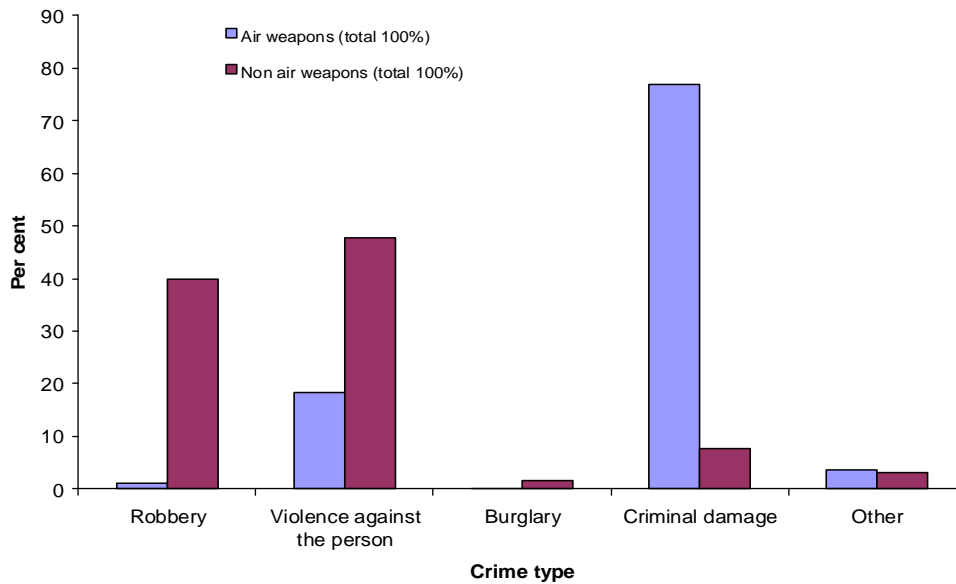
The proportion of crimes where a firearm was used differs across crime types (Table 2.02). Firearms were used in seven per cent of crimes recorded as homicide. The proportion of other serious offences of violence against the person involving a firearm stood at five per cent in 2007/08. The corresponding proportion for robbery was five per cent; the proportion has remained at four or five per cent for the past ten years.

Figure 2.5 Crimes in which firearms were reported to have been used by offence type, 1997/98 to 2007/08



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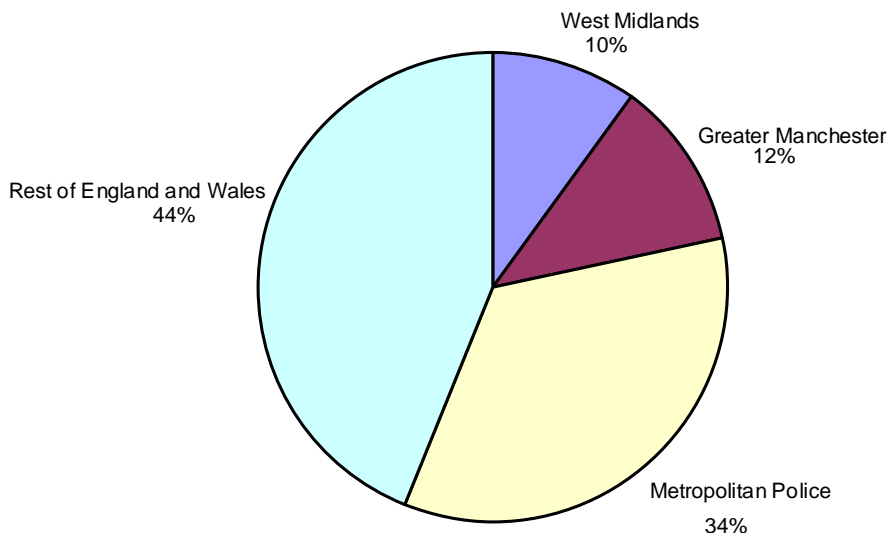
Figure 2.6 Firearm offences by crime type as a percentage of all firearm crime for air weapons and non-air weapons, 2007/08



2.6 GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF FIREARM OFFENCES

Fifty-six per cent of all non-air weapon firearm offences in England and Wales in 2007/08 occurred in just three police force areas – Metropolitan, Greater Manchester, and West Midlands. The proportion is one percentage point higher than the 55 per cent recorded in 2006/07. Thirty-four per cent of offences occurred in the Metropolitan Police area (Figure 2.7). The three forces also had a relatively higher rate of firearm offences per population than others, with both Metropolitan and Greater Manchester recording 45 offences per 100,000 population (Greater Manchester up six offences from 39 on the previous year) and West Midlands recording 37 offences (down from 38). The corresponding rate for England and Wales was 18 per 100,000 population (Table 2.12).

Figure 2.7 Firearm offences in police force areas, 2007/08



2.7 ROBBERIES

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As has been seen, 23 per cent of firearm crimes were robberies, but this rises to 40 per cent when excluding air weapons. The overall number of firearm robberies increased by one per cent in 2007/08 following a three per cent decrease in the previous year (Table 2.04; Table 2.09).

The location of firearm robberies

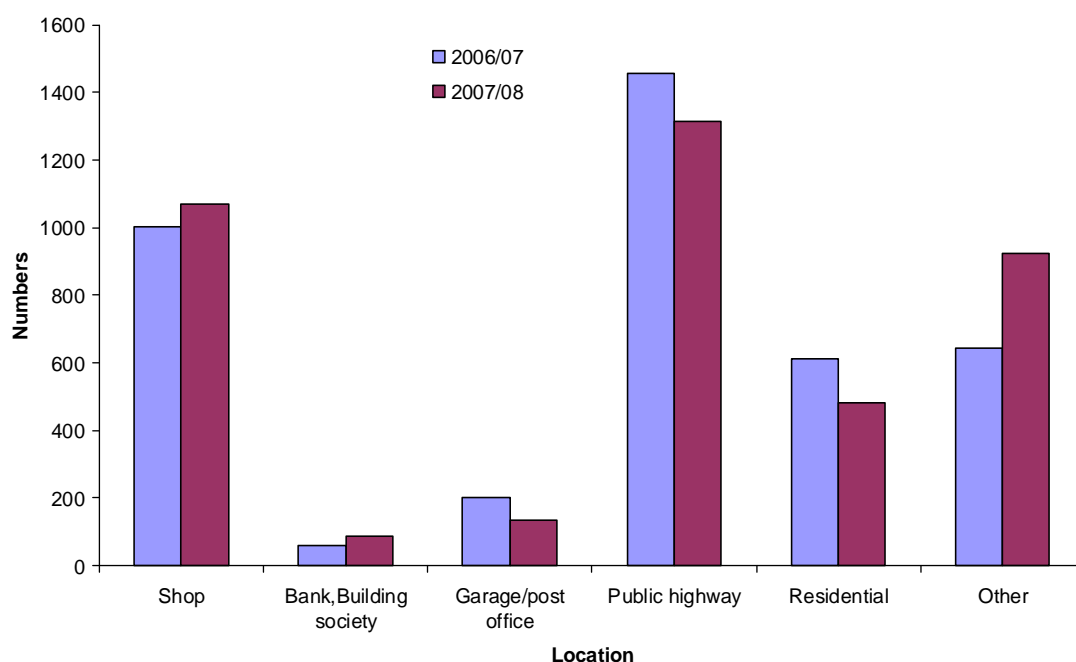
The highest number of firearm robberies, 1,314 offences or 33 per cent of the total, were committed on public highways, followed by robberies in shops (1,071 offences or 27%). The least number was recorded in building societies (14 robberies or 0.3%) followed by garage and service station robberies (65 offences or 2%) (Figure 2.8).

The largest percentage falls in 2007/08 were in garages and service stations: down 40 per cent from 109 in 2006/07 to 65 in 2007/08. This is a three-fold reduction from 188 recorded ten years ago in 1997/98. Post office robberies fell by 24 per cent while bank robberies increased by 62 per cent. 'Other premises or open space' robberies increased by 43 per cent in 2007/08, after falling by four per cent in the previous year.

The types of firearms involved in robberies

Firearms described as handguns were used in 67 per cent of robberies involving firearms, and sawn-off or long-barrelled shotguns in six per cent. Twelve per cent of incidents involved unidentified firearms (i.e. a firearm not actually seen, or not identified as to type), and another four per cent involved imitation firearms. Air weapons featured in only two per cent of firearm robberies in 2007/08 (Table 2.08).

Figure 2.8 Location of firearm robberies in 2006/07 and 2007/08, number of offences



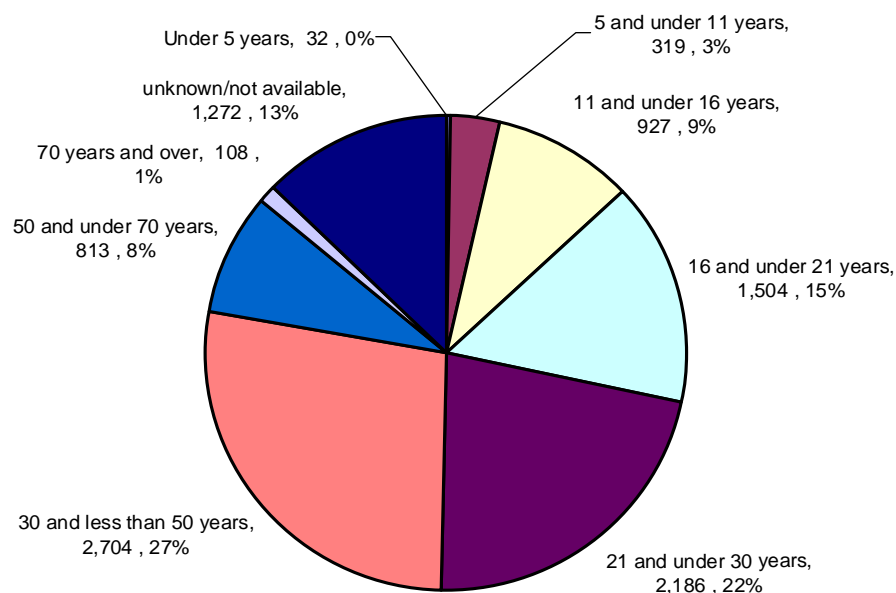
2.8 AGE OF VICTIMS **Protect - Statistics**

In 2007/08, of the firearm offences (excluding air weapons) in which the ages of the victims were known, half (50%) of victims were aged under 30 years. Twenty-seven per cent of all victims were aged between 30 and 49 years (i.e. 30 and under 50). A further 22 per cent were aged between 21 and 29 years followed by 16-to 20-year-olds at 15 per cent. Victim numbers declined in post-50 age groups: from eight per cent within 50-to 69-year-olds to one per cent for those aged 70 years and over (Figure 2.9).

Looking at weapon types, the largest proportion of handgun victims were in the 30-to-49 age group, at 31 per cent, followed by 21-to 29-year-olds (29%). In contrast, the largest proportion of imitation firearm victims were aged between 11 to 15 years (22%) followed by 30-to 49-year olds (20%).

Looking at offence categories, the largest proportion of firearm robbery victims, at 30 per cent, were in the 30-to-49 age group, followed by 21-29-year olds at 27 per cent. The 30-to-49 age group also accounted for the most firearm homicides (16 homicides or 30%), followed by the 16-to-20 and 21-to-29 age groups both with 28 per cent. On the other hand, 21-to-29 year olds were victims of the most attempted murders involving a firearm, at 44 per cent, followed by 30-to 49-year-olds with 23 per cent.

Figure 2.9 Firearm offences (excluding air weapons) by age of victim, 2007/08



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2.9 MISAPPROPRIATED (STOLEN) FIREARMS

Because of their potential for subsequent use in crime, there is concern about the number of firearms that are misappropriated. ('Misappropriated firearms' are defined as those stolen, obtained by fraud or forgery etc., or handled dishonestly. For simplicity, they are referred to as 'stolen' hereafter.) During 2007/08, 2,031 firearms were recorded by the police as being stolen, a fall of eight per cent over the previous year (Table 2.10). Air weapons accounted for 53 per cent of the thefts.

Compared with 2006/07, there was a small decrease in the number of stolen handguns in 2007/08 (by 2% to 80). Stolen imitation firearms were down by 25 per cent to 267. 'Other' stolen weapons which includes 'unknown' and 'prohibited' firearms decreased by 37 per cent to 104 in 2007/08 with prohibited firearms (CS gas sprays, stun guns etc.) contributing 18 per cent of the total. There was a decrease in the number of rifles stolen, down five per cent to 199 in 2007/08. Stolen shotguns rose by two per cent to 289 in 2007/08, while air weapons decreased slightly by 0.5 per cent to 1,075 over the previous year. (Table 2.10).

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Table 2.01 Crimes recorded by the police in Greater London and Westminster (including air weapons) were reported to have been used, by offence group, 1997/98 to 2007/08

Number of offences						Recorded crime			
Year	All offences	All offences excluding criminal damage	Violence against the person			Robbery	Burglary	Other offences excluding criminal damage	Criminal damage
			Homicide	Attempted murder and other most serious violence ¹	Other ²				
1997/98	12,805	6,608	54	696	2,250	2,938	333	337	6,197
1998/99 ³	13,874	7,408	49	724	2,910	2,973	319	433	6,466
1999/00	16,946	9,481	62	759	3,881	3,922	329	528	7,465
2000/01	17,698	9,775	73	831	3,869	4,128	390	484	7,923
2001/02 ⁴	22,401	12,424	97	1,110	4,637	5,486	483	611	9,977
2002/03 ⁵	24,070	13,114	81	1,285	5,767	4,776	494	711	10,956
2003/04	24,094	13,146	68	1,350	6,434	4,117	533	644	10,948
2004/05	22,894	12,856	77	1,384	6,485	3,744	341	825	10,038
2005/06 ⁶	21,527	12,548	50	893	6,359	4,121	298	827	8,979
2006/07	18,481	10,790	59	759	5,184	3,977	206	605	7,691
2007/08	17,343	10,837	53	869	5,163	4,014	172	566	6,506

1. Including more serious wounding.

2. Including less serious wounding and assault without injury.

3. There was a change in the counting rules for recorded crime on 1 April 1998.

4. Figures for some crime categories may have been inflated by some police forces implementing the principles of the National Crime Recording Standard before 1 April 2002.

5. The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced on 1 April 2002. Figures for some crime categories may have been inflated by this.

6. From 2005/06, 'threat or conspiracy to murder' offences are included within the 'other violence against the person' category.

Protect - Statistics

Table 2.02 Crimes recorded by the police in England and Wales in which firearms (including air weapons) were reported to have been used, as a percentage of all notifiable offences in particular offence groups, 1997/98 to 2007/08

Percentages		Recorded crime				
Year	All offences	Violence against the person			Robbery	Criminal damage
		Homicide	Attempted murder and other most serious violence ¹	Other ²		
1997/98	0.3	7.2	3.0	1.0	4.7	0.8
1998/99 ³	0.3	6.5	2.8	0.6	4.4	0.7
1999/00	0.3	8.1	2.6	0.7	4.7	0.8
2000/01	0.3	8.6	2.7	0.7	4.3	0.8
2001/02 ⁴	0.4	10.9	3.5	0.8	4.5	0.9
2002/03 ⁵	0.4	7.7	3.5	0.7	4.4	1.0
2003/04	0.4	8.0	3.1	0.7	4.1	0.9
2004/05	0.4	9.0	3.1	0.6	4.1	0.8
2005/06 ⁶	0.4	6.5	4.3	0.6	4.2	0.8
2006/07	0.3	7.8	4.0	0.5	3.9	0.6
2007/08	0.4	6.8	5.1	0.5	4.7	0.6

1. Including more serious wounding.

2. Including less serious wounding and assault without injury.

3. There was a change in the counting rules for recorded crime on 1 April 1998.

4. Numbers of some recorded crimes may have been inflated by some police forces implementing the principles of the National Crime Recording Standard before 1 April 2002.

5. The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced on 1 April 2002. Figures for some crime categories may have been inflated by this.

6. From 2005/06, 'threat or conspiracy to murder' offences are included within the 'other violence against the person' category.

Table 2.03 Crimes recorded by the police in England and Wales in which firearms were reported to have been used by type of principal weapon, 1998/99 to 2007/08

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Number of offences								Recorded crime		
Principal weapon	1998/99 ¹	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02 ²	2002/03 ³	2003/04	2004/05 ⁴	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Long-barrelled shotgun	322	353	303	380	361	424	306	375	360	365
Sawn-off shotgun	320	340	305	332	311	294	291	267	252	237
Handgun⁵										
Converted imitation	..	..	..	..	..	..	20	7	12	7
Reactivated	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	2	1
Converted air pistol	..	..	..	..	..	..	14	12	13	11
Other	..	..	..	..	..	..	866	1,022	908	895
Type unknown	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,458	3,629	3,238	3,258
Handgun total	2,687	3,685	4,110	5,874	5,549	5,144	4,360	4,672	4,173	4,172
Rifle	43	67	36	64	52	48	54	71	69	71
Imitation firearm⁵										
Imitation handgun	..	..	..	..	..	..	355	368	299	322
BB gun/soft air weapon	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,863	2,755	2,094	2,124
Deactivated firearm	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	4	2	2
Blank firer	..	..	..	..	..	..	27	17	21	21
Other imitation	..	..	..	..	..	..	127	133	100	93
Imitation firearm total	566	823	787	1,246	1,814	2,146	3,373	3,277	2,516	2,562
Unidentified firearm	665	762	950	1,176	1,431	1,356	1,500	1,362	1,276	1,325
Other firearm⁵										
Unconverted starting gun	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	9	3	6
CS gas	..	..	..	..	..	..	516	461	436	552
Pepper spray	..	..	..	..	..	..	141	154	179	228
Machine gun	..	..	..	..	..	..	25	34	39	18
Stun gun	..	..	..	..	..	..	143	133	108	118
Other converted imitation weapon	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	-	4
Other reactivated weapon	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	2	1	2
Disguised firearm	..	..	..	..	..	..	14	19	57	87
Other firearm (specified)	..	..	..	..	..	..	336	250	176	118
Other firearm total	606	813	980	952	730	926	1,185	1,064	999	1,133
All firearms excluding air weapons	5,209	6,843	7,471	10,024	10,248	10,338	11,069	11,088	9,645	9,865
Air weapon	8,665	10,103	10,227	12,377	13,822	13,756	11,825	10,439	8,836	7,478
All firearms	13,874	16,946	17,698	22,401	24,070	24,094	22,894	21,527	18,481	17,343

1. There was a change in the counting rules for recorded crime on 1 April 1998.

2. Figures may have been inflated by some police forces implementing the principles of the National Crime Recording Standard before 1 April 2002.

3. The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced on 1 April 2002. Figures for some crime categories may have been inflated by this.

4. More explicit guidelines for the classification of weapons introduced on 1 April 2004 may have increased the recording of firearm offences, particularly those committed by imitation weapons.

5. Further weapon breakdowns were available for the first time on 1 April 2004.

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Table 2.04 Crimes recorded by the police in England and Wales in which firearms were reported to have been used by offence group and principal weapon, 2007/08

Number of offences			Recorded crime						
Principal weapon	All offences	All offences excluding criminal damage	Violence against the person			Robbery	Burglary	Other offences excluding criminal damage	Criminal damage
			Homicide ¹	Attempted murder and other most serious violence ²	Other ³				
Long-barrelled shotgun	365	313	1	95	92	107	7	11	52
Sawn-off shotgun	237	233	2	32	49	142	5	3	4
Handgun	4,172	4,154	39	325	877	2,706	96	111	18
Rifle	71	65	2	10	36	14	-	3	6
Imitation firearm	2,562	2,094	-	31	1,829	169	14	51	468
Unidentified firearm	1,325	1,152	9	223	365	479	24	52	173
Other firearm	1,133	1,104	-	49	648	322	18	67	29
All firearms excluding air weapons	9,865	9,115	53	765	3,896	3,939	164	298	750
Air weapon	7,478	1,722	-	104	1,267	75	8	268	5,756
Total	17,343	10,837	53	869	5,163	4,014	172	566	6,506

1. These figures may not agree with those in the homicide chapter because (a) in this table, cases are included where the firearm was used as a blunt instrument and (b) the homicide figures are compiled at a later date and take into account the results of police and court decisions.

2. Including more serious wounding.

3. Including less serious wounding and assault without injury.

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Table 2.05 Crimes recorded by the police in England and Wales in which firearms were reported to have been used, by how involved, and principal weapon, 2007/08

Number of offences ¹										
Principal weapon	Total						Recorded crime			
	Fired						Not fired			
	Fatal injury	Serious injury ²	Slight injury	Causing property damage only	No injury or property damage	Total fired	Used as blunt instrument	Used as a threat	Total not fired	
Long-barrelled shotgun	1	46	30	72	31	180	27	158	185	
Sawn-off shotgun	2	13	5	18	8	46	33	158	191	
Handgun	39	113	91	54	127	424	638	3,110	3,748	
Rifle	2	4	11	4	13	34	4	33	37	
Imitation firearm ³	-	18	1,028	455	374	1,875	56	631	687	
Unidentified firearm ⁴	8	111	111	183	99	512	86	727	813	
Other firearm	-	27	642	29	97	795	95	243	338	
All firearms excluding air weapons	52	332	1,918	815	749	3,866	939	5,060	5,999	
Air weapon	-	84	817	5,562	383	6,846	22	610	632	
Total	52	416	2,735	6,377	1,132	10,712	965	6,214	7,179	

1. Figures may have been inflated by police forces implementing the National Crime Recording Standard on 1 April 2002.

2. A serious injury is one which necessitated detention in hospital or involved fractures, concussion, severe general shock, penetration by a bullet or multiple shot wounds.

3. Imitation weapons include blank firers, ball-bearing guns and soft air weapons.

4. Includes one fatal injury in which the weapon was not fired, i.e used as a blunt instrument.

Protect - Statistics

Table 2.06 Crimes recorded by the police in England and Wales in which firearms were reported to have caused injury¹ by type of principal weapon, 1997/98 to 2007/08

Number of offences				Recorded crime		
Year	All firearms	All firearms excluding air weapons	Shotgun	Handgun	Other firearms excluding air weapons	Air weapon
1997/98	2,074	804	74	317	413	1,270
1998/99 ²	2,378	864	73	239	552	1,514
1999/00	3,172	1,195	100	352	743	1,977
2000/01	3,203	1,382	73	400	909	1,821
2001/02 ³	3,794	1,879	111	648	1,120	1,915
2002/03 ⁴	4,556	2,179	107	640	1,432	2,377
2003/04	4,762	2,367	104	590	1,673	2,395
2004/05	5,402	3,904	135	780	2,989	1,498
2005/06	5,004	3,822	154	1,024	2,644	1,182
2006/07	4,064	3,011	128	792	2,091	1,053
2007/08	4,164	3,241	157	881	2,203	923

1. By the weapon being fired, used as a blunt instrument or in a threat.

2. There was a change in the counting rules for recorded crime on 1 April 1998.

3. Figures may have been inflated by some police forces implementing the principles of the National Crime Recording Standard before 1 April 2002.

4. The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced on 1 April 2002. Figures for some crime categories may have been inflated by this.

Protect - Statistics

Table 2.07 Crimes recorded by the police in England and Wales in which firearms were reported to have caused injury¹, by degree of injury and type of principal weapon, 2007/08

Number of offences		Recorded crime		
Type of weapon	Total	Fatal injury	Serious injury ²	Slight injury
Shotgun	157	3	65	89
Handgun	881	39	159	683
Other firearm excluding air weapon	2,203	11	178	2,014
All firearms excluding air weapons	3,241	53	402	2,786
Air weapon	923	-	86	837
All firearms	4,164	53	488	3,623

1. By the weapon being fired, used as a blunt instrument or in a threat. These figures differ from those in Table 2.05, whose breakdown by severity of injury is for weapon being fired only.

2. A serious injury is one which necessitated detention in hospital or involved fractures, concussion, severe general shock, penetration by a bullet or multiple shot wounds.

Protect - Statistics

Table 2.08 Offences of robbery recorded by the police in England and Wales in which firearms were reported to have been used, by type of principal weapon, 1997/98 to 2007/08

Number of robberies									Recorded crime	
Year	All firearms	All firearms excluding air weapons	Long-barrelled shotgun	Sawn-off shotgun	Handgun	Rifle	Imitation firearm	Unidentified firearm	Other firearm	Air weapon
1997/98	2,939	2,836	98	168	1,811	9	190	447	113	103
1998/99	2,973	2,890	138	193	1,814	4	163	419	159	83
1999/00	3,922	3,831	138	217	2,561	12	228	432	243	91
2000/01	4,128	4,012	97	202	2,758	13	227	482	233	116
2001/02 ¹	5,486	5,325	143	201	3,841	16	279	549	296	161
2002/03 ²	4,776	4,630	101	174	3,332	7	267	579	170	146
2003/04	4,117	4,032	98	148	2,799	11	230	531	215	85
2004/05	3,744	3,676	71	157	2,502	10	211	511	214	68
2005/06	4,121	4,054	89	132	2,888	9	189	504	243	67
2006/07	3,979	3,905	115	136	2,684	7	194	472	297	74
2007/08	4,014	3,939	107	142	2,706	14	169	479	322	75

1. Figures may have been inflated by some police forces implementing the principles of the National Crime Recording Standard before 1 April 2002.

2. The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced on 1 April 2002. Figures for some crime categories may have been inflated by this.

Table 2.09 Offences of robbery recorded by the police in England and Wales in which firearms were reported to have been used, by location of offence, 1997/98 to 2007/08

Number of robberies								Recorded crime	
Year	Total	Shop, stall etc.	Garage, service station	Post office	Bank	Building society	Residential ³	Public highway	Other premises or open space
1997/98	2,939	928	188	276	123	91	119	800	414
1998/99	2,973	998	198	282	129	95	109	741	421
1999/00	3,922	1,425	213	315	113	81	152	1,120	503
2000/01	4,128	1,356	218	257	128	86	161	1,359	563
2001/02 ¹	5,486	1,683	262	310	168	82	289	1,973	719
2002/03 ²	4,776	1,348	205	287	126	51	280	1,899	580
2003/04	4,117	1,138	140	198	64	25	345	1,674	533
2004/05	3,744	903	113	114	89	18	450	1,316	741
2005/06	4,121	1,037	137	108	59	24	645	1,439	672
2006/07	3,979	1,003	109	93	45	14	613	1,457	645
2007/08	4,014	1,071	65	71	73	14	481	1,314	925

1. Figures may have been inflated by some police forces implementing the principles of the National Crime Recording Standard before 1 April 2002.

2. The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced on 1 April 2002. Figures for some crime categories may have been inflated by this.

3. These crimes are classified as robberies but are mostly break-ins where firearms have been used immediately before or at the time of stealing items from a residential property, and in order to steal these items. If firearms are used instead in the getaway, the crime is classified as a burglary.

Protect - Statistics

Table 2.10 Firearms misappropriated¹ in crimes recorded by the police in England and Wales, by type of weapon, 1997/98 to 2007/08

Number of firearms		Recorded crime						
Year	Total	Air weapon	Shotgun	Handgun	Rifle	Starting gun	Imitation firearm	Other
1997/98	2,885	1,453	524	270	155	55	346	82
1998/99	2,711	1,520	395	242	179	48	228	99
1999/00	3,002	1,677	447	219	200	62	312	85
2000/01	2,585	1,471	431	167	172	50	192	102
2001/02	2,917	1,689	423	79	139	45	471	71
2002/03	2,844	1,683	462	85	129	45	387	53
2003/04	2,594	1,515	397	96	130	32	332	92
2004/05	2,377	1,283	403	81	140	31	322	117
2005/06	2,068	1,067	243	110	147	21	355	125
2006/07	2,219	1,081	282	103	210	24	355	164
2007/08	2,031	1,075	289	80	199	17	267	104

1. Misappropriated is defined as stolen, obtained by fraud or forgery etc., or handled dishonestly.

Table 2.11 Firearms misappropriated¹ in crimes recorded by the police in England and Wales, by type of weapon and location, 2007/08

Number of firearms		Recorded crime						
Location	Total	Air weapon	Shotgun	Handgun	Rifle	Starting gun	Imitation firearm	Other
Residential	1,231	589	230	46	129	5	184	48
Office	18	13	-	2	2	-	-	1
Factory	21	14	-	2	3	-	2	-
Store	175	105	8	1	24	-	31	6
Goods vehicle	10	8	-	-	-	-	2	-
Private car	121	53	31	15	7	3	7	5
School	9	-	-	1	-	2	5	1
Military establishment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gun club	33	28	-	3	2	-	-	-
Other premises	413	265	20	10	32	7	36	43
Total	2,031	1,075	289	80	199	17	267	104

1. Misappropriated is defined as stolen, obtained by fraud or forgery etc., or handled dishonestly.

Table 2.12 Firearm offences (excluding air weapons) by police force area, 2003/04 to 2007/08

Police force area	Total number of offences					Recorded crime
						Offences per
	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	100,000 population 2007/08
North East Region						
Cleveland	45	37	41	19	15	3
Durham	15	21	18	14	45	7
Northumbria	169	182	137	111	78	6
North West Region						
Cheshire	44	61	71	41	59	6
Cumbria	11	26	18	21	18	4
Greater Manchester	1,275	1,268	1,200	993	1,160	45
Lancashire	58	259	372	364	349	24
Merseyside	483	491	485	410	398	29
Yorkshire and the Humber Region						
Humberside	68	174	108	117	58	6
North Yorkshire	23	13	15	14	17	2
South Yorkshire	127	185	301	211	202	16
West Yorkshire	269	318	355	319	332	15
East Midlands Region						
Derbyshire	75	149	109	83	70	7
Leicestershire	141	123	89	109	134	14
Lincolnshire	26	90	72	45	41	6
Northamptonshire	123	113	128	159	164	24
Nottinghamshire	233	303	277	196	240	23
West Midlands Region						
Staffordshire	108	144	128	94	123	12
Warwickshire	102	73	80	90	107	20
West Mercia	62	151	115	58	124	10
West Midlands	1,138	959	946	979	974	37
East of England Region						
Bedfordshire	89	94	103	86	83	14
Cambridgeshire	34	50	34	24	30	4
Essex	145	193	280	255	260	15
Hertfordshire	138	139	114	89	112	11
Norfolk	33	23	29	34	43	5
Suffolk	45	59	58	42	38	5
London Region	3,891	3,697	3,884	3,331	3,399	45
South East Region						
Hampshire	130	148	85	122	100	5
Kent	65	100	142	92	82	5
Surrey	88	63	87	60	70	6
Sussex	82	67	85	84	69	4
Thames Valley	421	437	401	332	322	15
South West Region						
Avon & Somerset	123	196	167	138	116	7
Devon & Cornwall	84	189	174	132	111	7
Dorset	45	49	27	28	21	3
Gloucestershire	108	87	77	65	43	7
Wiltshire	53	49	43	69	49	8
Wales						
Dyfed-Powys	37	40	21	17	25	5
Gwent	74	85	53	33	47	8
North Wales	11	60	88	98	53	8
South Wales	47	104	71	67	84	7
ENGLAND AND WALES	10,338	11,069	11,088	9,645	9,865	18
ENGLAND AND WALES (excluding London Region)	6,447	7,372	7,204	6,314	6,466	14

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3 Intimate violence: 2007/08 BCS

Stephen Roe

SUMMARY

This chapter presents findings from the 2007/08 British Crime Survey (BCS) self-completion module on partner abuse, family abuse and sexual assault, collectively referred to as 'intimate violence'.

According to the 2007/08 BCS, women remained at higher risk of intimate violence victimisation than men.

- Overall, three in ten (30%) women and two in ten (20%) men had experienced any domestic abuse since the age of 16. These figures are equivalent to an estimated 4.8 million female victims of any domestic abuse since the age of 16 and 3.2 million male victims.

Following several years of little change, prevalence of (non-sexual) partner and family abuse has decreased between 2006/07 and 2007/08. Prevalence of sexual assault has remained stable.

- Between 2006/07 and 2007/08 BCS interviews, there was a significant decrease in the prevalence of women experiencing (non-sexual) partner abuse in the last year (from 6% to 5%).
- The prevalence of both men and women experiencing (non-sexual) family abuse in the last year decreased between 2006/07 and 2007/08 BCS interviews (from 2% to 1% for men and from 3% to 2% for women).

A significant minority of men and women who had experienced intimate violence since the age of 16 had experienced more than one type of intimate violence (any combination of non-sexual family abuse, non-sexual partner abuse or sexual assault).

- Over a quarter (27%) of female victims of intimate violence had experienced two types of intimate violence while six per cent had experienced all three types of intimate violence.
- About a fifth (21%) of men who had experienced intimate violence since the age of 16 had experienced two types and a further two per cent had experienced all three types.

The risk of intimate violence victimisation varied by a range of personal and household characteristics.

- The pattern of declining risk of intimate violence with increasing age was generally consistent across all types of intimate violence for both men and women.
- Married men and women were consistently at lower risk of intimate violence than single men and women.

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3.1 INTRODUCTION

Domestic violence and sexual assault are serious public health and criminal justice problems. Over the past decade the Government has implemented a number of policy interventions, both nationally and locally, aimed at tackling domestic and sexual violence (see Box 3.1 for further information).

Box 3.1 Government action on domestic and sexual violence

Reducing the most serious violence (including tackling serious sexual offences and domestic violence) has been stated as Priority Action 1 within Public Service Agreement 23 published by the Home Office (October 2007) and there is a greater focus on more serious crime within the Home Office's 2008/2011 crime strategy (July 2007).

The Government has developed plans for action in relation to domestic and sexual violence:

- The National Domestic Violence Delivery Plan (first published in 2005 and then updated annually) set out proposals to reduce prevalence of domestic violence and related homicides, to increase the rate of reporting and the rate of offences brought to justice, and to improve support and protection for victims. For more information see: <http://www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/dv/dv017.htm>
- The first cross-government Action Plan on Sexual Violence (published in 2007) included a range of measures aimed at improving the criminal justice response to sexual violence. For more information see: <http://www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/sexualoffences/sexual03.htm>
- In 2008, a cross-government Action Plan for Tackling Violence was published, which included addressing domestic and sexual violence as key objectives. For more information see: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/violent-crime-action-plan-08/>

The British Crime Survey (BCS) is a large, nationally representative victimisation survey of approximately 47,000 adults living in private households in England and Wales.¹ This chapter presents key findings from the self-completion module in the 2007/08 BCS which relates to experiences of intimate violence (the collective term used to describe domestic violence and sexual assaults) among men and women aged 16 to 59. These figures from the BCS are not affected by levels of reporting to the police, which is particularly important for these crime types.

Violence figures are routinely published (Kershaw *et al.*, 2008) but the issue of willingness to disclose incidents is important for figures about intimate violence. Prevalence rates for domestic violence from the self-completion module are around five times higher than rates obtained from face-to-face interviews on the BCS (see Walby and Allen, 2001), thus the figures published here provide a more complete measure of intimate violence victimisation.

¹ For more information about the BCS see <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/bcs1.html>.

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This chapter updates headline findings on the extent and trends of intimate violence based on the 2007/08 BCS. The findings on intimate violence relate to experiences since the age of 16 or in the last 12 months for men and women aged 16 to 59. Detailed findings from previous BCS self-completion modules on the extent and trends of intimate violence are reported in Finney (2006), Coleman *et al.* (2007) and Povey *et al.* (2008). In addition, this chapter includes information on multiple and repeat victimisation and factors associated with higher risk of intimate violence victimisation. The chapter also focuses on the nature of sexual assault, including information about the context of victimisation and reporting of incidents to the police or others.

3.2 PREVALENCE OF INTIMATE VIOLENCE

Intimate violence is the collective term used for partner abuse, family abuse, and sexual assault, reflecting either the intimate nature of the victim-offender relationship or of the violence or abuse (see Box 3.2).

Box 3.2 Definition of types of intimate violence²

Any domestic abuse: non-sexual emotional or financial abuse, threats, physical force or sexual assault carried out by a current or former partner or other family member.

Partner abuse (non-sexual): non-sexual emotional or financial abuse, threats or physical force by a current or former partner.

Family abuse (non-sexual): non-sexual emotional or financial abuse, threats or physical force by a family member other than a partner (father/mother, step-father/mother or other relative).

Sexual assault: indecent exposure, sexual threats and unwanted touching ('less serious'), rape or assault by penetration including attempts ('serious'), by any person including a partner or family member.

Extent

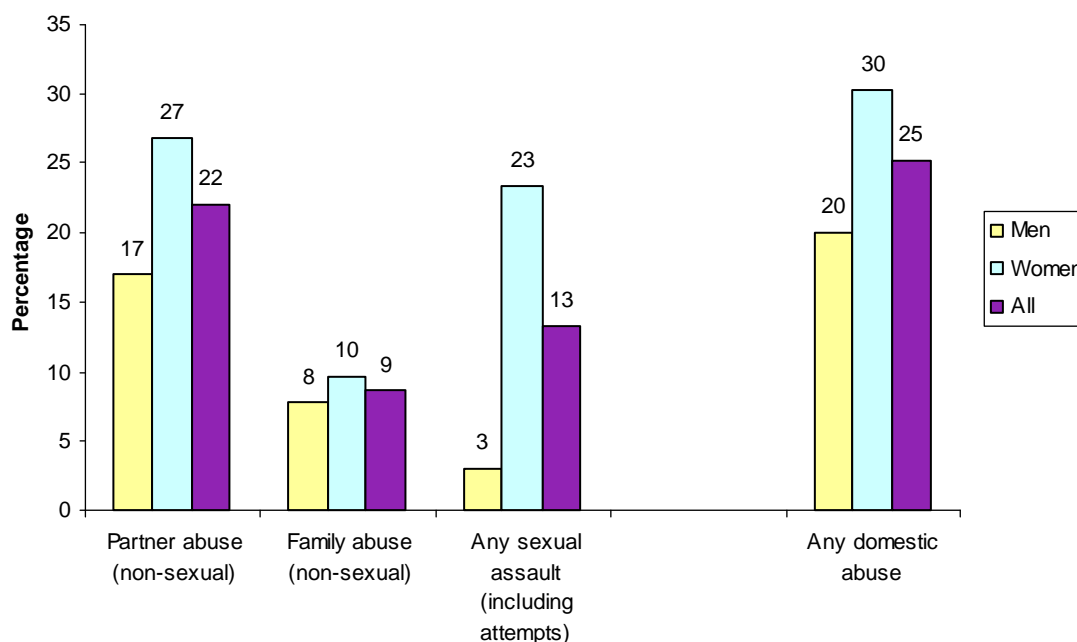
Women were more likely than men to have experienced intimate violence across all types of abuse (partner abuse, family abuse and sexual assault) since the age of 16. In contrast, young men are at greatest risk of experiencing any violent crime (Kershaw *et al.*, 2008).

- Overall, three in ten (30%) women and two in ten (20%) men had experienced any domestic abuse since the age of 16 (Figure 3.1, Table 3.01). These figures are equivalent to an estimated 4.8 million female victims of any domestic abuse since the age of 16 and 3.2 million male victims (Table 3.03).
- Partner abuse (non-sexual) was the most common type of intimate violence experienced since the age of 16 among both women and men. Twenty-seven per cent of women and 17 per cent of men reported having experienced such abuse (Figure 3.1, Table 3.01).

² Questions on stalking were not included in the 2007/08 BCS. The definition of intimate violence based on the 2007/08 BCS therefore differed from previous definitions that have included stalking. Figures for any domestic, partner and family abuse for previous years have been revised to enable trend analysis.

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Figure 3.1 Prevalence of intimate violence since the age of 16, by sex, 2007/08 BCS



The differences between men and women were less marked in relation to experiences in the last year but again showed that women were more likely to have experienced intimate violence across all three types of abuse.

- Partner abuse (non-sexual) was also the most commonly experienced type of intimate violence in the last year, with five per cent of women and four per cent of men reporting having experienced it (Table 3.01). These figures represent an estimated 780,000 female victims of (non-sexual) partner abuse in the last year and 663,000 male victims (Table 3.04).
- Approximately three per cent of women and less than one per cent of men had experienced a sexual assault (including attempts) in the last year. The majority of this is accounted for by less serious sexual assault. Less than one per cent of women and men reported having experienced a serious sexual assault (Table 3.01).

Trends

In general, prevalence rates of intimate violence showed few changes between 2004/05 and 2006/07. However, between 2006/07 and 2007/08 BCS interviews prevalence of (non-sexual) partner and family abuse has declined while overall rates of sexual assault have remained stable (Table 3.06). The trend showing a decrease between 2006/07 and 2007/08 after several years of stability is similar to that for all BCS violence (Kershaw *et al.*, 2008).

- Between 2006/07 and 2007/08 BCS interviews, there was a significant decrease in the prevalence of women experiencing (non-sexual) partner abuse in the last year (from 6% to 5%) (Table 3.06).
- The prevalence of both men and women experiencing (non-sexual) family abuse in the last year decreased between 2006/07 and 2007/08 BCS interviews (from 2% to 1% for men and from 3% to 2% for women) (Table 3.06).

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3.3 MULTIPLE AND REPEAT VICTIMISATION

Multiple victimisation is defined here as the experience of more than one type of intimate violence, while repeat victimisation refers to being a victim of a specific type of intimate violence more than once.

Multiple victimisation

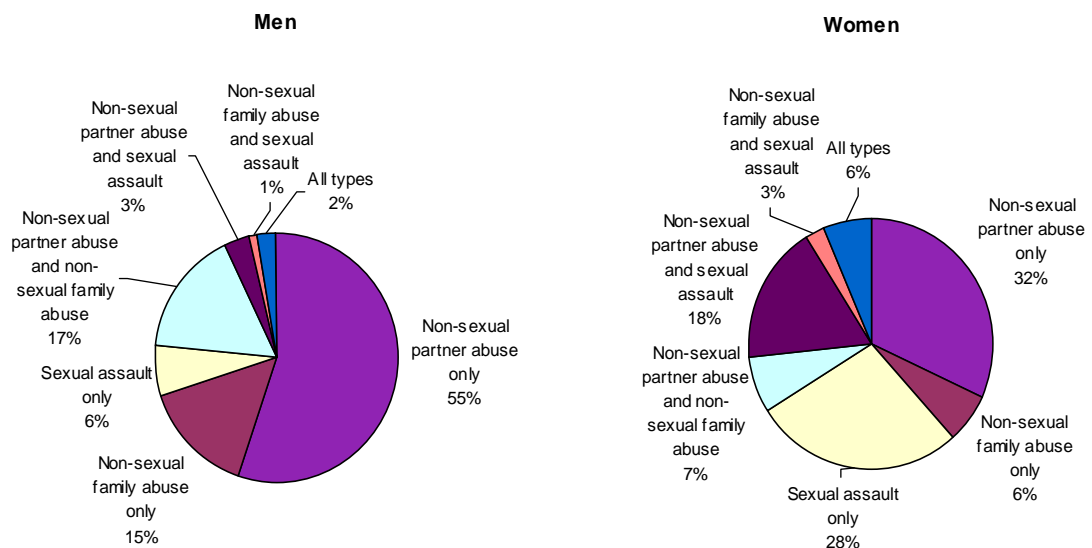
Most victims of intimate violence since the age of 16 reported having experienced one type of intimate violence only. However, women were more likely than men to have experienced more than one type of intimate violence since the age of 16.

- Among female victims of intimate violence since the age of 16, around two-thirds (66%) had experienced one type of abuse only. Over a quarter (27%) of female victims had experienced two types of intimate violence while six per cent had experienced all three types of intimate violence (Table 3.07).
- Around three-quarters (76%) of male victims of intimate violence had experienced one type of abuse only. About a fifth (21%) of male victims had experienced two types of intimate violence since the age of 16 and a further two per cent had experienced all three types (Table 3.07).

The most common combinations of types of intimate violence experienced since the age of 16 differed between male and female victims.

- For female victims, the most prevalent combination of types of intimate violence was (non-sexual) partner abuse and sexual assault (18%) (Figure 3.2, Table 3.08).
- Among male victims, the most prevalent combination of types of intimate violence was (non-sexual) partner abuse and (non-sexual) family abuse (17%) (Figure 3.2, Table 3.08).

Figure 3.2 Experiences of combinations of intimate violence among victims since age 16, by sex, 2007/08 BCS



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Repeat victimisation

Victims of partner abuse and sexual assault in the past year were asked how many times they had experienced the abuse in the past 12 months.³

Levels of repeat victimisation for partner abuse and sexual assault were similar.

- Over two-fifths (45%) of victims of sexual assault in the past year were confirmed repeat victims (i.e. were victimised more than once in the past 12 months) and about two-fifths (39%) of victims of partner abuse in the past year were confirmed repeat victims (Tables 3.09 and 3.10).

Women were more likely than men to be repeat victims of partner abuse and to experience more frequent levels of abuse.

- Over four in ten (44%) women who had experienced any partner abuse in the past year were confirmed repeat victims (i.e. were victimised more than once in the past 12 months), while over three in ten (32%) men who had experienced any partner abuse in the previous 12 months were confirmed repeat victims (Table 3.09).
- Eighteen per cent of female victims of any partner abuse reported experiencing six or more instances of abuse in the past 12 months compared with 11 per cent of male victims (Table 3.09).

Levels of repeat victimisation for less serious and serious sexual assault were similar.

- Nearly four in ten (37%) victims of serious sexual assault in the previous year were repeat victims, while over four in ten (43%) of those who had experienced less serious sexual assault were repeat victims (Table 3.10).

3.4 NATURE OF SEXUAL ASSAULT

Further questions were asked in the 2007/08 BCS to provide more detail on the circumstances of sexual assault experienced by respondents either since the age of 16 or in the past year.

Victim-offender relationship

The victim-offender relationship profiles varied considerably between different types of sexual assault, and also between female and male victims.

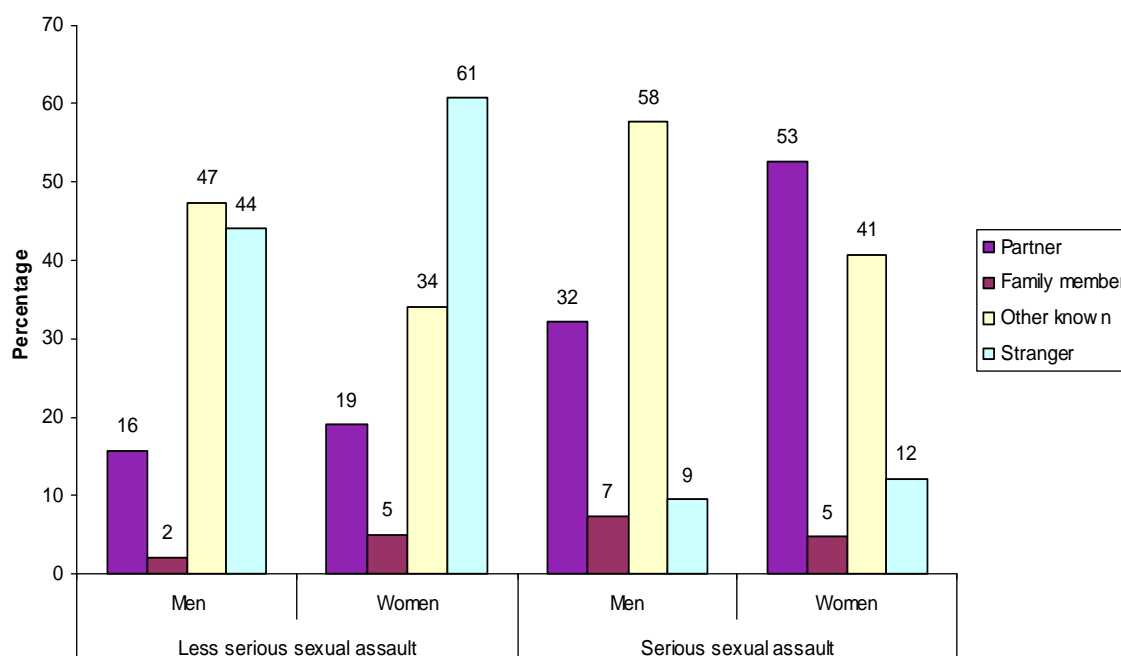
- For female victims, less serious sexual assault experienced since the age of 16 was most likely to be committed by a stranger (61%) (Figure 3.3, Table 3.11).

³ A single question was asked of victims of any partner abuse in the last year regarding how many times in the last 12 months they had been abused in any way. A question was asked of victims of each specific form of sexual assault regarding how many times they had experienced the specific form of sexual assault in the last 12 months. The possible response categories also differed between the partner abuse and sexual assault questions. A significant minority of respondents to these questions on repeat victimisation responded "don't know" or "don't want to answer".

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- Among male victims since the age of 16, less serious sexual assault was most likely to be committed by a stranger (44%) or someone known but neither a partner nor a family member (e.g. date, friend, acquaintance or colleague; 47%) (Figure 3.3, Table 3.11).
- For female victims of serious sexual assault since the age of 16, the most common perpetrator was a partner⁴ (53%) (Figure 3.3, Table 3.11).
- For male victims of serious sexual assault since the age of 16, the most common perpetrator was someone else known (e.g. date, friend, acquaintance or colleague; 58%) (Figure 3.3, Table 3.11).

Figure 3.3 Victim-offender relationship for sexual assault incidents since the age of 16, by sex, 2007/08 BCS



Influence of drink and drugs

Victims of less serious sexual assault in the last year and victims of serious sexual assault since the age of 16 were asked whether they thought the offender (or offenders) was under the influence of drink or drugs and whether they (the victim) were under the influence of drink at the time of the incident.⁵ For those who had experienced more than one incident, only the most recent incident was asked about.

Victims were more likely to report that offenders were under the influence of drink rather than drugs in the most recent incident of sexual assault that they had experienced.

⁴ Includes both current and former partner.

⁵ The questions on influence of drink or drugs were asked of victims of serious sexual assault since age 16 because the number of victims of serious sexual assault in the last year was low. A significant minority of respondents to these questions on the influence of drink or drugs responded "don't know", "don't want to answer" or "can't remember".

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- Nearly half (46%) of victims of less serious sexual assault in the past year thought the offender was under the influence of drink and ten per cent thought the offender was under the influence of drugs (Table 3.12).
- Nearly two-fifths (38%) of those who had experienced serious sexual assault since the age of 16 thought the offender had been under the influence of drink and 11 per cent thought the offender was under the influence of drugs (Table 3.13).

A significant minority of victims reported that they were under the influence of drink in the most recent incident of sexual assault that they had experienced.

- Nearly three in ten (29%) victims reported that they were under the influence of drink at the time of the most recent incident of less serious sexual assault (Table 3.12).
- Similarly, close to three in ten (28%) victims reported that they were under the influence of drink at the time of the most recent incident of serious sexual assault (Table 3.13).

Reporting of serious sexual assault

A significant minority of victims of serious sexual assault since the age of 16 had not told anyone about their most recent experience, and only a small minority had told the police.

- Two-fifths (40%) of victims of serious sexual assault since the age of 16 told no-one about their experience (Table 3.14).
- For those that did tell someone about their experience, the main group that victims confided in was friends, relatives or neighbours (44%) (Table 3.14).
- Eleven per cent of victims told the police about their most recent experience of serious sexual assault (Table 3.14). This level of reporting to the police is the same as the previously published figure based on 2005/06 BCS interviews (Povey *et al.*, 2008).

Men and women were equally likely to report their experience of serious sexual assault but there were differences in the likelihood of men and women telling particular groups.

- Men were more likely to tell someone at work about their experience (19% compared with 4% for women) while women were more likely to tell a friend, relative or neighbour (46% compared with 21% for men) (Table 3.14).

3.5 UNEQUAL RISK

The risk of intimate violence victimisation varies by personal, household and area characteristics. This section focuses on prevalence rates for the last year because the circumstances of any victim may change considerably since the age of 16 and therefore their lifetime victimisation may not be strongly related to their current situation.⁶ Detailed

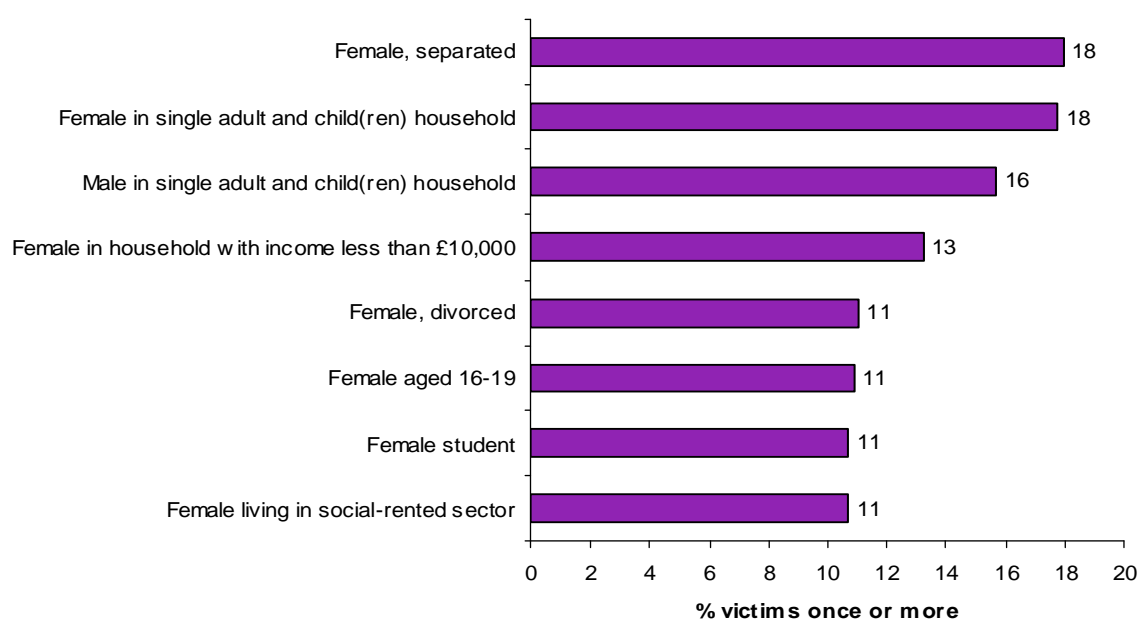
⁶ Even when using last year prevalence rates, one cannot be certain that the respondent's characteristics at the time of the BCS interview were the same at the time of victimisation. For example, there is a high prevalence of any domestic abuse amongst respondents who are separated but respondents may have separated from their partners after the abuse had taken place.

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breakdowns can be found in Tables 3.15 and 3.16, and key patterns based on risk for any domestic abuse are highlighted below.

- Younger men and women (in the 16 to 19 or 20 to 24 age range) reported higher levels of victimisation for any domestic abuse than those in older age groups (Figure 3.4 and Table 3.15). This finding is consistent with results for all BCS violent crime (Kershaw *et al.*, 2008).
- Men and women who were married had a lower risk of any domestic abuse than men and women who were single, cohabiting, separated or divorced. Women who were separated reported particularly high levels of risk for any domestic abuse (18%) (Figure 3.4 and Table 3.15).
- Men and women in households with a single adult and child (or children) also had amongst the highest levels of risk for any domestic abuse (16% and 18% respectively) (Figure 3.4 and Table 3.16).
- The likelihood of being a victim of any domestic abuse tended to increase with decreasing household income. Women living in households with an income of less than £10,000 were at particularly high risk of any domestic abuse (13%) (Figure 3.4 and Table 3.16).
- Men and women living in areas where physical disorder was assessed as high⁷ and in rented accommodation were more likely to be victims of any domestic abuse in the past year (Table 3.16).
- There was little variation in risk of any domestic abuse by ethnic group (between White and Non-White groups) or area type (between urban and rural areas) (Tables 3.15 and 3.16).

Figure 3.4 Adults most at risk of any domestic abuse in the past year, 2007/08 BCS



⁷ Interviewer assessment, see the Glossary for more information.

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The patterns identified above for variation of risk on the overall measure of any domestic abuse in the past year were generally similar across the different types of intimate violence (non-sexual family abuse, non-sexual partner abuse and sexual assault).

- The pattern of declining risk of intimate violence with increasing age was generally consistent across all types of intimate violence for both men and women (Table 3.15).
- Single men and women were consistently at higher risk of intimate violence than married men and women (Table 3.15).
- Men and women living in owner-occupied accommodation were less likely to be victims of each type of intimate violence compared with those living in private or social-rented accommodation (Table 3.16).
- There were no differences between White and Non-White groups for risk of any type of intimate violence (Table 3.15).

The effect of some risk factors varied depending upon the type of intimate violence, particularly when comparing sexual assault with other forms of intimate violence.

- Women away from home for more than seven hours a week were more likely to be victims of sexual assault than those who were away from home for less than three hours (3% compared with 2%). However, women who were away from home for less than three hours were more likely to be victims of (non-sexual) partner abuse than those who were away from home for more than seven hours (6% compared with 4%) (Table 3.15).

Several of the risk factors mentioned above, such as age and marital status, may overlap with each other. Multivariate analysis was carried out to examine which characteristics were associated with risk of intimate violence in the past year independently of other factors. This analysis was carried out separately for men and women and for each type of intimate violence (apart from sexual assault for men where there were too few cases for reliable analysis). The main results of the multivariate analysis are summarised in Table 3a and outlined below.

- Marital status was a strong predictor of risk for all types of intimate violence in the last year for both men and women. Married men and women had lower odds of (non-sexual) partner abuse compared with men and women who were cohabiting, single, separated or divorced (Table 3a and Tables 3.17 to 3.23).
- Household type was strongly associated with any domestic abuse, (non-sexual) partner abuse and (non-sexual) family abuse in the past year for women but not for men. For (non-sexual) partner abuse, both women living in households as a single adult with a child (or children) and women living in households with another adult and a child (or children) had higher odds of victimisation than those living in households with no children. For (non-sexual) family abuse, only women living in households with another adult and a child (or children) had higher odds of victimisation than those living in households with no children (Table 3a and Tables 3.17 to 3.22).

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- Having a limiting disability or illness was strongly associated with (non-sexual) family abuse for women, but not for men (Table 3a and Tables 3.21 to 3.22). The association between having a limiting disability or illness and experiencing intimate violence is consistent with previous findings from the BCS (see Finney, 2006 and Coleman *et al.*, 2007). Particular factors such as social and physical isolation, dependence on carers and communication difficulties may place people with disabilities at greater risk of domestic abuse (BMA, 2007).
- The lifestyle factor of frequency of pub visits was strongly associated only with risk of sexual assault in the past year. Women who had visited a pub or wine bar more than once a week during the past month had higher odds of experiencing a sexual assault in the past year than those who had not visited a pub or wine bar at all in the past month (Table 3a and Table 3.23). The link between frequency of pub visits and experience of sexual assault is likely to be complex but it emphasises the influence of alcohol as a factor in sexual violence, as indicated in the previous section of this chapter and in other research (see Finney, 2004).

Table 3a Factors independently associated with risk of intimate violence in the past year, by sex, 2007/08 BCS

	Any domestic abuse		Partner abuse (non-sexual)		Family abuse (non-sexual)		Sexual assault
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Women
Marital status	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Household type	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Long-standing illness or disability	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Respondent's age	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
Tenure		✓		✓			✓
Number of visits to pub/wine bar in the evening during last month							✓
Ethnic group		✓			✓		
ACORN category	✓	✓	✓				
Highest qualification			✓				
Respondent's employment status						✓	

✓ denotes factor strongly independently associated with risk of victimisation (contributing at least 1% improvement in the model);

✓ denotes factor independently associated with risk of victimisation (contributing less).

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Table 3.01 Prevalence of intimate violence by category among adults aged 16 to 59, by sex

Percentages	2007/08 BCS					
	Since the age of 16			In the last year		
	Men	Women	All	Men	Women	All
<i>% victims once or more</i>						
Any domestic abuse (partner or family non-physical abuse, threats, force or sexual assault)¹	20.0	30.2	25.2	4.5	6.0	5.3
Any partner abuse (non-physical abuse, threats, force or sexual assault)²	16.8	26.5	21.7	4.0	4.8	4.4
Any family abuse (non-physical abuse, threats, force or sexual assault)²	7.5	10.0	8.7	1.2	2.0	1.6
Partner abuse (non-physical abuse, threats or force) - non-sexual²	17.1	26.7	22.0	4.1	4.9	4.5
Non-physical abuse (emotional, financial)	11.2	18.8	15.1	2.6	3.4	3.0
Threats ³ or force	10.3	19.7	15.1	2.1	2.7	2.4
Threats ³	1.3	10.1	5.8	0.2	1.4	0.9
Force	10.0	17.9	14.0	2.0	2.2	2.1
- Minor	4.6	14.0	9.4	1.0	1.6	1.3
- Severe	8.1	12.9	10.5	1.4	1.5	1.4
Family abuse (non-physical abuse, threats or force) - non-sexual²	7.7	9.6	8.7	1.4	2.1	1.8
Non-physical abuse (emotional, financial)	4.4	5.9	5.2	0.9	1.2	1.0
Threats ³ or force	4.4	6.0	5.2	0.6	1.2	0.9
Threats ³	1.1	2.3	1.7	0.1	0.4	0.3
Force	3.8	5.1	4.5	0.5	1.0	0.8
- Minor	1.7	3.3	2.5	0.2	0.6	0.4
- Severe	2.9	3.5	3.2	0.4	0.6	0.5
Any sexual assault (including attempts)	3.0	23.3	13.3	0.4	3.0	1.7
Serious sexual assault including attempts	0.6	5.3	3.0	0.1	0.6	0.4
Serious sexual assault excluding attempts	0.4	4.2	2.3	0.1	0.4	0.2
- Rape including attempts ⁴	0.5	4.6	2.6	0.1	0.5	0.3
- Rape excluding attempts ⁴	0.3	3.7	2.0	0.1	0.3	0.2
- Assault by penetration including attempts ⁵	0.2	1.8	1.0	0.0	0.3	0.1
- Assault by penetration excluding attempts ⁵	0.1	1.3	0.7	0.0	0.2	0.1
Less serious sexual assault	2.7	22.2	12.6	0.3	2.7	1.6
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>11,021</i>	<i>12,634</i>	<i>23,655</i>	<i>10,940</i>	<i>12,486</i>	<i>23,426</i>

1. **Domestic abuse** refers to non-physical abuse, threats, force or sexual assault carried out by a current or former partner or other family member.

2. **Partner abuse** refers to abuse carried out by a current or former partner. **Family abuse** is mutually exclusive, referring to abuse carried out by a family member other than a partner (father/mother, step-father/mother, or other relative). The apparent anomalies between prevalence rates of non-sexual abuse and any abuse are due to the exclusion of 'don't know' responses and refusals from the analysis (only valid responses are included) which affects base sizes and thus prevalence rates.

3. **Threats** are classified as an affirmative response to the statement 'frightened you by threatening to hurt you/someone close'.

4. **Rape** is the legal category of rape introduced in legislation in 2003. It is the penetration of the vagina or anus without consent and penetration of the mouth by a penis without consent.

5. **Assault by penetration** is a legal offence introduced in 2003. It is the penetration of the vagina or anus with an object or other body part without consent.

6. For prevalence risks of elements making up these categories see Table 3.02.

7. The bases given are for any partner abuse; the bases for the other measures presented will be similar.

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Table 3.02 Detailed prevalence of intimate violence elements among adults aged 16 to 59, by sex

Percentages	2007/08 BCS					
	Since the age of 16			In the last year		
	Men	Women	All	Men	Women	All
% victims once or more						
Partner abuse (non-physical abuse, threats or force) - non-sexual¹						
Non-physical abuse (emotional, financial)	11.2	18.8	15.1	2.6	3.4	3.0
Prevented you from having your fair share of household money	2.4	6.2	4.3	0.5	0.9	0.7
Stopped you from seeing friends and relatives	7.8	10.2	9.1	1.8	1.7	1.7
Repeatedly belittled you so that you felt worthless	4.1	12.7	8.5	0.8	2.0	1.4
Threats ²	1.3	10.1	5.8	0.2	1.4	0.9
Force	10.0	17.9	14.0	2.0	2.2	2.1
- Minor ³	4.6	14.0	9.4	1.0	1.6	1.3
- Severe	8.1	12.9	10.5	1.4	1.5	1.4
Kicked, bit or hit you, or threw something at you	6.9	9.3	8.1	1.1	1.0	1.0
Choked or tried to strangle you	0.5	4.8	2.7	0.1	0.5	0.3
Threatened you with a weapon (e.g. a stick or knife)	1.5	2.7	2.1	0.1	0.3	0.2
Threatened to kill you	0.6	3.4	2.1	0.1	0.4	0.3
Used a weapon against you, for example a stick or knife	0.8	1.5	1.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
Used some other kind of force against you	1.6	5.0	3.3	0.2	0.5	0.4
Family abuse (non-physical abuse, threats or force) - non-sexual¹						
Non-physical abuse (emotional, financial)	4.4	5.9	5.2	0.9	1.2	1.0
Prevented you from having your fair share of household money	0.9	1.2	1.0	0.1	0.2	0.2
Stopped you from seeing friends and relatives	2.6	3.1	2.8	0.5	0.5	0.5
Repeatedly belittled you so that you felt worthless	1.6	3.4	2.5	0.3	0.7	0.5
Threats ²	1.1	2.3	1.7	0.1	0.4	0.3
Force	3.8	5.1	4.5	0.5	1.0	0.8
- Minor ³	1.7	3.3	2.5	0.2	0.6	0.4
- Severe	2.9	3.5	3.2	0.4	0.6	0.5
Kicked, bit or hit you, or threw something at you	2.1	2.4	2.3	0.3	0.5	0.4
Choked or tried to strangle you	0.3	0.7	0.5	0.0	0.1	0.0
Threatened you with a weapon (e.g. a stick or knife)	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.0	0.1	0.0
Threatened to kill you	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.1	0.0	0.1
Used a weapon against you, for example a stick or knife	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Used some other kind of force against you	0.7	1.0	0.9	0.1	0.1	0.1
Any sexual assault (including attempts)						
Serious sexual assault including attempts	0.6	5.3	3.0	0.1	0.6	0.4
Penetrated your vagina/anus with their penis	0.2	3.5	1.9	0.0	0.2	0.1
Penetrated your vagina/anus with an object	0.1	1.3	0.7	0.0	0.2	0.1
Penetrated your mouth with their penis	0.1	0.7	0.4	0.0	0.1	0.1
Attempted to penetrate your vagina/anus with their penis	0.2	1.2	0.7	0.0	0.2	0.1
Attempted to penetrate your vagina/anus with an object	0.1	0.6	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.0
Attempted to penetrate your mouth with their penis	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Less serious sexual assault	2.7	22.2	12.6	0.3	2.7	1.6
Indecently exposed themselves to you	1.0	11.2	6.2	0.1	0.6	0.4
Touched you sexually when you did not want it	1.5	12.3	7.0	0.2	1.9	1.1
Sexually threatened you	0.5	5.6	3.1	0.1	0.5	0.3
Unweighted base	11,192	13,117	24,309	11,104	12,991	24,095

1. **Partner abuse** refers to abuse carried out by a current or former partner; **family abuse** is mutually exclusive, referring to abuse carried out by a family member other than a partner (father/mother, step-father/mother, or other relative).

2. **Threats** are classified as an affirmative response to the statement 'frightened you by threatening to hurt you/someone close'.

3. **Minor force** is classified as an affirmative response to the statement 'pushed you, held you down or slapped you'.

4. The bases given are for partner abuse; the bases for the other measures presented will be similar.

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Table 3.03 Estimates of numbers of victims of intimate violence since the age of 16 by category among adults aged 16 to 59, by sex

Numbers (000s)		2007/08 BCS		
		Best estimate	Higher estimate	Lower estimate
Any domestic abuse (partner or family non-physical abuse, threats, force or sexual assault) ¹	Men	3,209	3,354	3,065
	Women	4,839	4,993	4,684
	All	8,069	8,283	7,855
Any partner abuse (non-physical abuse, threats, force or sexual assault) ²	Men	2,693	2,827	2,559
	Women	4,252	4,400	4,104
	All	6,963	7,165	6,761
Any family abuse (non-physical abuse, threats, force or sexual assault) ²	Men	1,196	1,291	1,101
	Women	1,605	1,706	1,504
	All	2,806	2,945	2,667
Partner abuse (non-physical abuse, threats or force) - non-sexual ²	Men	2,736	2,871	2,602
	Women	4,286	4,431	4,140
	All	7,054	7,254	6,853
Family abuse (non-physical abuse, threats or force) - non-sexual ²	Men	1,243	1,339	1,147
	Women	1,543	1,641	1,446
	All	2,792	2,929	2,655
Any sexual assault (including attempts)	Men	476	537	416
	Women	3,733	3,874	3,592
	All	4,258	4,423	4,093

1. **Domestic abuse** refers to non-physical abuse, threats, force or sexual assault carried out by a current or former partner or other family member.

2. **Partner abuse** refers to abuse carried out by a current or former partner; **family abuse** is mutually exclusive, referring to abuse carried out by a family member other than a partner (father/mother, step-father/mother, or other relative). The apparent anomalies between prevalence rates of non-sexual abuse and any abuse are due to the exclusion of 'don't know' responses and refusals from the analysis (only valid responses are included) which affects base sizes and thus prevalence rates.

3. Numbers are derived by multiplying the prevalence rate by the 2007 population aged 16 to 59 in England and Wales (based on mid-2006 estimates from the Office for National Statistics). Lower and higher estimates are derived using the 95 per cent confidence interval.

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Table 3.04 Estimates of numbers of victims of intimate violence in the last year by category among adults aged 16 to 59, by sex

Numbers (000s)		2007/08 BCS		
		Best estimate	Higher estimate	Lower estimate
Any domestic abuse (partner or family non-physical abuse, threats, force or sexual assault) ¹	Men	727	802	651
	Women	958	1,039	878
	All	1,688	1,799	1,577
Any partner abuse (non-physical abuse, threats, force or sexual assault) ²	Men	641	711	570
	Women	770	842	697
	All	1,412	1,513	1,311
Any family abuse (non-physical abuse, threats, force or sexual assault) ²	Men	198	238	158
	Women	325	372	277
	All	524	587	462
Partner abuse (non-physical abuse, threats or force) - non-sexual ²	Men	663	735	592
	Women	780	851	709
	All	1,446	1,546	1,345
Family abuse (non-physical abuse, threats or force) - non-sexual ²	Men	218	259	176
	Women	341	389	293
	All	561	626	497
Any sexual assault (including attempts)	Men	61	83	39
	Women	478	535	421
	All	543	606	480

1. **Domestic abuse** refers to non-physical abuse, threats, force or sexual assault carried out by a current or former partner or other family member.

2. **Partner abuse** refers to abuse carried out by a current or former partner; **family abuse** is mutually exclusive, referring to abuse carried out by a family member other than a partner (father/mother, step-father/mother, or other relative). The apparent anomalies between prevalence rates of non-sexual abuse and any abuse are due to the exclusion of 'don't know' responses and refusals from the analysis (only valid responses are included) which affects base sizes and thus prevalence rates.

3. Numbers are derived by multiplying the prevalence rate by the 2007 population aged 16 to 59 in England and Wales (based on mid-2006 estimates from the Office for National Statistics). Lower and higher estimates are derived using the 95 per cent confidence interval.

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Table 3.05 Prevalence of intimate violence since the age of 16 among adults aged 16 to 59, by sex, 2004/05 to 2007/08 BCS

Percentages	Men				Women				All			
	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
	% victims once or more				% victims once or more				% victims once or more			
Any partner abuse (non-physical abuse, threats, force, sexual assault) ¹	17.5	17.2	17.8	16.8	27.4	28.0	27.8	26.5	22.5	22.7	22.8 *	21.7
Any family abuse (non-physical abuse, threats, force, sexual assault) ¹	8.9	8.4	8.7 *	7.5	12.2	11.7	11.6 *	10.0	10.6	10.0	10.2 *	8.7
Partner abuse (non-physical abuse, threats or force) - non-sexual ¹	17.8	17.5	18.0	17.1	27.9	28.1	28.0	26.7	23.0	22.9	23.1 *	22.0
Non-physical abuse (emotional, financial)	10.9	10.8	11.3	11.2	19.4	19.1	19.0	18.8	15.2	15.1	15.2	15.1
Threats ² or force	10.9	10.7	11.2	10.3	20.5	20.8	21.1 *	19.7	15.8	15.9	16.3 *	15.1
Threats ²	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.3	10.4	10.4	10.5	10.1	6.0	6.0	6.0	5.8
Force	10.6	10.4	10.9	10.0	18.9	19.1	19.2 *	17.9	14.9	14.8	15.1 *	14.0
- Minor	4.8	4.4	4.5	4.6	14.7	15.2	14.6	14.0	9.9	9.9	9.6	9.4
- Severe	8.8	8.7	9.3 *	8.1	13.9	13.7	14.0 *	12.9	11.4	11.2	11.7 *	10.5
Family abuse (non-physical abuse, threats or force) - non-sexual ¹	9.2	8.6	9.0 *	7.7	11.9	11.5	11.6 *	9.6	10.6	10.1	10.3 *	8.7
Non-physical abuse (emotional, financial)	5.1	4.9	5.2 *	4.4	7.2	7.2	7.2 *	5.9	6.2	6.1	6.2 *	5.2
Threats ² or force	5.4	5.1	5.4 *	4.4	7.5	7.4	7.4 *	6.0	6.5	6.3	6.4 *	5.2
Threats ²	1.2	1.2	1.5 *	1.1	3.0	2.9	3.0 *	2.3	2.1	2.1	2.3 *	1.7
Force	5.0	4.5	4.7 *	3.8	6.5	6.4	6.3 *	5.1	5.8	5.5	5.5 *	4.5
- Minor	2.2	2.2	2.2 *	1.7	4.2	4.0	4.3 *	3.3	3.2	3.2	3.3 *	2.5
- Severe	3.8	3.3	3.6 *	2.9	4.3	4.5	4.3 *	3.5	4.0	3.9	3.9 *	3.2
Sexual assault (any assault including attempts)	3.4	3.6	3.7 *	3.0	23.5	23.9	23.9	23.3	13.5	13.9	14.0	13.3
Serious sexual assault including attempts	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	5.6	5.7	5.5	5.3	3.1	3.2	3.1	3.0
Serious sexual assault excluding attempts	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.2	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.3
- Rape including attempts ³	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	5.0	5.0	4.8	4.6	2.7	2.8	2.7	2.6
- Rape excluding attempts ³	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.7	2.1	2.1	2.0	2.0
- Assault by penetration including attempts ⁴	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.8	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.0
- Assault by penetration excluding attempts ⁴	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.3	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.7
Less serious sexual assault	3.1	3.4	3.4 *	2.7	22.3	22.8	22.9	22.2	12.8	13.3	13.3 *	12.6
Unweighted base	10,547	11,394	11,297	11,021	12,737	13,610	13,030	12,634	23,284	25,004	24,327	23,655

1. **Partner abuse** refers to abuse carried out by a current or former partner; **family abuse** is mutually exclusive, referring to abuse carried out by a family member other than a partner (father/mother, step-father/mother, or other relative). The apparent anomalies between prevalence rates of non-sexual abuse and any abuse are due to the exclusion of 'don't know' responses and refusals from the analysis (only valid responses are included) which affects base sizes and thus prevalence rates. Figures for any partner and family abuse for previous years have been revised to exclude stalking in order to create a comparable measure with figures from the 2007/08 BCS (in which questions on stalking were not included).

2. **Threats** are classified as an affirmative response to the statement 'frightened you by threatening to hurt you/someone close'.

3. **Rape** is the legal category of rape introduced in legislation in 2003. It is the penetration of the vagina or anus without consent and penetration of the mouth by a penis without consent.

4. **Assault by penetration** is a legal offence introduced in 2003. It is the penetration of the vagina or anus with an object or other body part without consent.

5. The bases given are for any partner abuse; the bases for the other measures presented will be similar.

6. * Indicates a statistically significant change at the five per cent level; the asterisk appears between the years being compared.

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Table 3.06 Prevalence of intimate violence in the last year among adults aged 16 to 59, by sex, 2004/05 to 2007/08 BCS

Percentages	Men				Women				All			
	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
	% victims once or more				% victims once or more				% victims once or more			
Any partner abuse (non-physical abuse, threats, force, sexual assault) ¹	4.1	4.0	4.2	4.0	5.4	5.6	5.3	4.8	4.7	4.8	4.8	4.4
Any family abuse (non-physical abuse, threats, force, sexual assault) ¹	2.0	1.8	1.9 *	1.2	3.1	2.9	2.9 *	2.0	2.5	2.4	2.4 *	1.6
Partner abuse (non-physical abuse, threats or force) - non-sexual ¹	4.1	4.0	4.3	4.1	5.6	5.7	5.6 *	4.9	4.9	4.9	5.0 *	4.5
Non-physical abuse (emotional, financial)	2.6	2.6	2.8	2.6	3.7	3.6	3.5	3.4	3.2	3.1	3.1	3.0
Threats ² or force	2.1	1.9	2.2	2.1	3.3	3.5	3.4 *	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.8 *	2.4
Threats ²	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	1.5	1.7	1.7	1.4	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.9
Force	2.0	1.8	2.2	2.0	2.7	3.0	2.7 *	2.2	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.1
- Minor	1.0	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.9 *	2.4 *	1.9	1.6	1.4	1.6	1.4	1.3
- Severe	1.6	1.3 *	1.7	1.4	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.5	1.7	1.5	1.7 *	1.4
Family abuse (non-physical abuse, threats or force) - non-sexual ¹	2.0	1.9	2.1 *	1.4	3.1	3.1	3.2 *	2.1	2.6	2.5	2.6 *	1.8
Non-physical abuse (emotional, financial)	1.2	1.1	1.2 *	0.9	1.7	1.8	1.8 *	1.2	1.5	1.4	1.5 *	1.0
Threats ² or force	1.0	1.0	0.9 *	0.6	1.7	1.9	1.9 *	1.2	1.4	1.5	1.4 *	0.9
Threats ²	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.6	0.7	0.7 *	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.4 *	0.3
Force	0.9	0.9	0.9 *	0.5	1.4	1.5	1.5 *	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.2 *	0.8
- Minor	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.6 *	0.4
- Severe	0.7	0.6	0.6 *	0.4	0.9	1.0	0.9 *	0.6	0.8	0.8	0.8 *	0.5
Sexual assault (any assault including attempts)	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.4	2.8	3.3	3.1	3.0	1.7	1.9	1.8	1.7
Serious sexual assault including attempts	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.4
Serious sexual assault excluding attempts	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2
- Rape including attempts ³	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3
- Rape excluding attempts ³	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
- Assault by penetration including attempts ⁴	0.1 *	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
- Assault by penetration excluding attempts ⁴	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Less serious sexual assault	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.3	2.6	2.9	2.9	2.7	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.6
Unweighted base	10,478	11,296	11,216	10,940	12,599	13,464	12,896	12,486	23,077	24,760	24,112	23,426

1. **Partner abuse** refers to abuse carried out by a current or former partner; **family abuse** is mutually exclusive, referring to abuse carried out by a family member other than a partner (father/mother, step-father/mother, or other relative). The apparent anomalies between prevalence rates of non-sexual abuse and any abuse are due to the exclusion of 'don't know' responses and refusals from the analysis (only valid responses are included) which affects base sizes and thus prevalence rates. Figures for any partner and family abuse for previous years have been revised to exclude stalking in order to create a comparable measure with figures from the 2007/08 BCS (in which questions on stalking were not included).

2. **Threats** are classified as an affirmative response to the statement 'frightened you by threatening to hurt you/someone close'.

3. **Rape** is the legal category of rape introduced in legislation in 2003. It is the penetration of the vagina or anus without consent and penetration of the mouth by a penis without consent.

4. **Assault by penetration** is a legal offence introduced in 2003. It is the penetration of the vagina or anus with an object or other body part without consent.

5. The bases given are for any partner abuse; the bases for the other measures presented will be similar.

6. * Indicates a statistically significant change at the five per cent level; the asterisk appears between the years being compared.

Protect - Statistics

Table 3.07 Percentage of intimate violence victims experiencing one, two or all types since the age of 16, by sex

Percentages	2007/08 BCS		
	Men	Women	All
One type	76	66	69
Two types	21	27	25
All three types	2	6	5
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>2,683</i>	<i>6,004</i>	<i>8,687</i>

Table 3.08 Experiences of combinations of intimate violence among victims since the age of 16, by sex

Percentages	2007/08 BCS		
	Men	Women	All
Non-sexual partner abuse only	55	32	40
Non-sexual family abuse only	15	6	9
Sexual assault only	6	28	21
Non-sexual partner abuse and non-sexual family abuse	17	7	10
Non-sexual partner abuse and sexual assault	3	18	13
Non-sexual family abuse and sexual assault	1	3	2
All types	2	6	5
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>2,683</i>	<i>6,004</i>	<i>8,687</i>

Protect - Statistics

Table 3.09 Number of times victims of partner abuse had been abused by partner(s) in the last year, by sex

Percentages	2007/08 BCS		
	Men	Women	All
Once	32	24	27
More than once	32	44	39
Twice	11	10	11
Three to five times	10	16	13
Between six and 20 times	8	11	9
Between 21 and 49 times	1	3	2
More than 50 times/too many times to count	2	5	4
Don't know	17	12	14
Don't want to answer	20	20	20
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>490</i>	<i>747</i>	<i>1,237</i>

1. Partner abuse includes non-physical abuse, threats, force and sexual assault.

Table 3.10 Number of times victims had experienced sexual assault in the last year

Percentages	2007/08 BCS					
	Less serious sexual assault		Serious sexual assault		All sexual assault	
	Women	All	Women	All	Women	All
Once	51	50	49	48	48	46
More than once	43	43	36	37	44	45
Twice	19	18	14	15	20	18
Three times or more	24	25	22	22	24	27
Don't know/Don't want to answer	6	7	15	15	8	9
<i>Unweighted base</i>	294	331	78	91	324	367

1. Sample size for male victims is too low to provide robust estimates.

Protect - Statistics

Table 3.11 Victim-offender relationship for sexual assault incidents since the age of 16, by sex

Percentages	2007/08 BCS				
	Men		Women		All
	Less serious sexual assault	Serious sexual assault ²	Less serious sexual assault	Serious sexual assault	Less serious sexual assault
Partner	16	32	19	53	19
Husband/wife	2	7	6	14	5
Partner/boyfriend/girlfriend	8	14	8	23	8
Ex-husband/wife	0	2	2	7	2
Previous partner/boyfriend/girlfriend	8	11	6	16	6
Family member	2	7	5	5	5
Father/mother	0	2	1	2	1
Step-father/mother	0	0	1	0	1
Another relative	2	5	3	3	3
Other known	47	58	34	41	35
Date	2	7	5	11	5
Friend	17	20	7	10	8
Neighbour	2	6	2	2	2
Acquaintance	12	15	11	15	11
Someone known at work/school/college/university	16	14	11	5	12
Person in a position of trust or authority	3	4	3	2	3
Stranger	44	9	61	12	59
<i>Unweighted base</i>	311	66	2,982	779	3,293
					845

1. Percentages will sum to more than 100 due to victimisation from more than one offender.

2. Base is small, therefore sampling error will be large.

Protect - Statistics

Table 3.12 Influence of drink or drugs in incidents of less serious sexual assault in the last year

Percentages	2007/08 BCS	
	Less serious sexual assault	
	Women	All
Offender under influence of drink	45	46
Offender not under influence of drink	36	37
Don't know/Can't remember/Don't want to answer	18	17
Offender under influence of drugs	9	10
Offender not under influence of drugs	60	60
Don't know/Can't remember/Don't want to answer	31	30
Victim under influence of drink	27	29
Victim not under influence of drink	70	68
Don't know/Can't remember/Don't want to answer	4	4
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>294</i>	<i>331</i>

1. Sample size for male victims is too low to provide robust estimates.

2. If the victim had experienced more than one less serious sexual assault, question was asked of the most recent incident.

Table 3.13 Influence of drink or drugs in incidents of serious sexual assault since the age of 16, by sex

Percentages	2007/08 BCS		
	Serious sexual assault		
	Men	Women	All
Offender under influence of drink	32	39	38
Offender not under influence of drink	52	48	49
Don't know/Can't remember/Don't want to answer	16	13	13
Offender under influence of drugs	18	10	11
Offender not under influence of drugs	64	73	72
Don't know/Can't remember/Don't want to answer	18	17	17
Victim under influence of drink	30	27	28
Victim not under influence of drink	50	68	66
Don't know/Can't remember/Don't want to answer	20	5	7
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>67</i>	<i>740</i>	<i>807</i>

1. If the victim had experienced more than one serious sexual assault, question was asked of the most recent incident.

Protect - Statistics

Table 3.14 Who the victim had told personally about the serious sexual assault since the age of 16, by sex

Percentages	2007/08 BCS		
	Men	Women	All
Victim told someone	59	60	60
Friends, relatives or neighbours	21	46	44
Police	6	12	11
Health professional (e.g. doctor or nurse)	11	8	8
Counsellor/ therapist	1	10	9
Someone at work	19	4	5
Women's refuge/group/centre	2	3	3
Legal professional	1	3	3
Victim support	0	2	2
Rape crisis helpline	3	3	3
Housing department	0	0	0
Benefit agency	0	0	0
Social services	0	0	0
National domestic violence helpline	0	0	0
Any other helpline	1	1	1
Someone else	0	2	2
Victim told no one	41	40	40
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>64</i>	<i>775</i>	<i>839</i>

1. If the victim had experienced more than one serious sexual assault, question was asked of the most recent incident.

Protect - Statistics

Table 3.15 Percentage of adults aged from 16 to 59 victims of intimate violence by type in last year, by personal characteristics, by sex

Percentages	2007/08 BCS									
	Any domestic abuse		Partner abuse (non-sexual)		Family abuse (non-sexual)		Sexual assault		Unweighted bases ¹	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
Age group										
16-19	5.9	10.9	5.5	7.8	2.8	5.7	1.2	8.9	646	702
20-24	7.7	6.8	6.4	5.4	1.7	2.2	0.5	5.8	829	997
25-34	5.7	6.4	5.5	5.8	1.7	1.8	0.5	3.2	2,328	2,835
35-44	4.1	6.6	3.8	5.4	0.9	2.0	0.2	1.9	3,161	3,593
45-54	3.1	3.9	2.8	2.9	0.9	1.5	0.2	0.9	2,586	2,812
55-59	1.3	2.1	0.9	2.0	0.6	0.8	0.0	0.9	1,216	1,370
Ethnic group										
White	4.6	6.0	4.2	4.9	1.3	2.1	0.4	3.0	10,022	11,410
Non-White	4.4	5.3	3.8	4.8	2.3	2.4	0.4	2.5	742	897
Marital status										
Married	2.5	3.1	2.3	2.2	0.7	1.2	0.2	1.0	5,176	5,634
Cohabiting	6.2	4.6	5.8	4.1	1.5	1.8	0.2	2.8	1,463	1,547
Single	6.4	9.7	5.7	7.6	2.2	3.7	0.7	6.4	3,187	3,269
Separated	9.7	18.0	8.4	18.8	1.7	2.7	0.2	4.2	262	488
Divorced	7.3	11.0	7.0	9.5	1.1	3.0	0.6	2.4	615	1,169
Widowed	2.1	3.7	2.1	3.1	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.5	63	197
Respondent's employment status										
Employed	4.4	5.0	4.1	4.1	1.2	1.7	0.2	2.6	9,313	9,180
Unemployed	4.1	9.0	6.2	7.3	0.5	5.1	0.6	4.8	299	250
Inactive	5.5	8.4	4.0	6.8	2.7	3.2	1.2	4.1	1,138	2,856
Student ²	5.7	10.7	3.3	7.7	3.4	4.7	1.7	7.9	396	492
Looking after family/home	3.8	8.2	3.7	7.3	1.3	2.5	1.3	2.3	65	1,506
Long-term/temporarily sick/ill	6.7	9.9	6.4	8.0	2.6	4.5	1.0	4.2	381	472
Retired	0.3	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.0	1.2	173	238
Other inactive	8.2	5.4	6.4	3.2	2.2	2.6	0.9	3.2	123	148
Respondent's occupation										
Managerial and professional occupations	3.9	4.4	3.5	3.6	0.7	1.3	0.2	2.5	4,507	4,579
Intermediate occupations	3.9	5.2	3.6	4.1	1.2	1.8	0.2	2.4	1,889	2,723
Routine and manual occupations	5.5	7.1	5.2	6.2	1.8	2.4	0.4	2.1	3,590	3,848
Never worked and long-term unemployed	1.7	7.2	7.4	6.5	1.7	3.3	2.1	3.9	87	302
Full-time students ²	5.3	9.2	3.8	6.3	2.6	4.5	1.1	7.8	673	836
Highest qualification										
Degree or diploma	4.1	4.7	3.6	3.9	0.9	1.5	0.4	2.9	4,332	4,640
Apprenticeship or A/AS level	4.6	6.3	3.9	5.1	1.5	2.4	0.5	3.9	2,659	2,087
O level/GCSE	5.0	7.4	4.3	5.7	1.9	2.7	0.3	2.8	2,331	3,722
Other	5.5	4.6	4.7	4.2	1.8	1.4	0.0	3.1	310	337
No qualifications	5.0	6.2	6.1	5.6	1.6	2.5	0.4	2.0	1,125	1,515
Long-standing illness or disability										
Long-standing illness or disability	5.2	8.4	4.5	6.3	1.7	3.7	0.5	3.5	1,754	2,101
Limits activities	6.6	9.6	5.2	7.2	2.6	4.3	0.6	4.0	745	814
Does not limit activities	3.6	6.6	3.7	4.9	0.5	2.9	0.2	2.9	1,008	1,285
No long-standing illness or disability	4.4	5.5	4.1	4.6	1.3	1.8	0.4	2.9	9,009	10,204
Hours out of home on an average weekday										
Less than 3 hours	5.2	6.9	4.7	5.7	1.7	2.7	0.9	1.9	881	2,108
3 hours less than 7 hours	4.0	6.3	4.0	5.4	2.2	2.0	0.8	2.8	1,385	3,893
7 hours or longer	4.6	5.5	4.1	4.3	1.2	2.0	0.3	3.4	8,480	6,285
Number of visits to pub/wine bar in the evening during last month										
None	3.6	5.4	3.4	4.6	1.4	2.3	0.3	1.8	3,165	4,891
Less than once a week	4.7	5.9	4.2	4.6	1.3	2.0	0.3	2.4	3,513	4,446
Once a week or more often	5.1	6.9	4.7	5.7	1.4	2.0	0.5	5.7	4,088	2,971
ALL ADULTS	4.5	6.0	4.1	4.9	1.4	2.1	0.4	3.0	10,766	12,309

¹ The bases given are correct for any domestic abuse. The bases for the other measures presented will be similar though not identical to these due to different rates of 'don't know' responses and refusals to the relevant questions.

² Bases for the student categories differ as they are based on different classifications. Economically inactive students exclude those who are in employment, or in other ways economically active, but full-time students are recognised as such within the occupational coding. For more information see the Glossary (NS-SEC and Employment status).

³ See the Glossary for definitions of personal characteristics.

Protect - Statistics

Table 3.16 Percentage of adults aged from 16 to 59 victims of intimate violence by type in last year, by household and area characteristics, by sex

Percentages	2007/08 BCS									
	Any domestic abuse		Partner abuse (non-sexual)		Family abuse (non-sexual)		Sexual assault		Unweighted bases ¹	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
Household type										
No children	4.6	4.8	4.2	3.9	1.4	1.7	0.4	3.4	6,826	6,631
Adults and child(ren)	4.2	5.8	3.9	4.2	1.3	2.5	0.4	2.2	3,808	4,150
Single adult and child(ren)	15.7	17.7	14.6	17.6	6.1	3.2	1.3	4.4	132	1,528
Household income										
Less than £10,000	7.5	13.2	6.8	12.3	2.6	3.8	0.7	4.5	640	1,347
£10,000 less than £20,000	4.8	7.9	4.1	7.2	1.6	2.4	0.3	3.1	1,177	1,870
£20,000 less than £30,000	5.3	6.0	4.9	4.2	1.7	2.6	0.4	3.1	1,737	2,001
£30,000 less than £40,000	4.6	4.7	4.6	3.1	0.8	1.9	0.4	2.2	1,787	1,696
£40,000 less than £50,000	4.1	2.9	3.5	2.7	1.3	0.7	0.3	2.1	1,389	1,266
£50,000 or more	3.7	3.8	3.2	2.6	1.0	1.3	0.3	2.4	2,384	2,045
Tenure										
Owner occupiers	3.7	4.4	3.3	3.2	1.1	1.6	0.2	1.9	7,723	8,531
Social renters	6.3	10.7	6.4	10.0	2.4	3.6	1.2	4.1	1,093	1,845
Private renters	6.6	8.7	5.9	7.5	1.7	3.2	0.5	6.4	1,920	1,914
ACORN category										
Wealthy Achievers	3.4	4.2	2.9	3.1	1.0	1.3	0.4	2.0	2,948	3,357
Urban Prosperity	4.8	5.2	4.1	4.6	1.3	1.5	0.4	5.3	1,078	986
Comfortably Off	4.6	5.5	4.3	4.2	1.1	2.2	0.2	2.5	3,461	3,776
Moderate Means	4.1	7.9	3.8	6.3	1.8	2.7	0.1	3.2	1,496	1,823
Hard Pressed	6.3	8.2	6.0	7.3	2.2	3.0	0.7	3.7	1,749	2,339
Area type										
Urban	4.7	6.2	4.3	5.1	1.5	2.2	0.4	3.2	8,172	9,295
Rural	3.8	5.1	3.4	4.0	0.9	1.9	0.3	2.2	2,594	3,014
Level of physical disorder (interviewer-rated)										
Not high	4.4	5.8	4.0	4.7	1.3	2.0	0.3	2.9	9,598	10,936
High	7.2	10.1	6.9	8.1	1.8	4.1	1.0	4.2	567	704
Region and Wales										
North East	5.2	6.6	3.9	5.8	2.5	2.3	0.8	4.8	756	860
North West	3.9	6.1	3.5	4.8	1.3	1.9	0.4	2.1	1,170	1,369
Yorkshire and the Humber	4.3	6.1	4.2	5.0	0.8	2.8	0.2	4.0	965	1,121
East Midlands	6.4	6.3	5.8	5.8	1.5	2.3	0.4	2.9	1,272	1,313
West Midlands	6.1	6.7	5.4	4.9	1.7	2.7	0.4	2.8	1,049	1,231
East of England	4.3	5.1	4.0	4.0	1.3	2.1	0.6	1.6	1,527	1,733
London	3.9	4.7	3.9	4.8	1.3	1.6	0.2	4.2	851	959
South East	3.9	6.5	4.0	4.6	1.3	2.4	0.6	3.3	1,166	1,368
South West	4.2	6.6	3.6	5.1	1.3	1.4	0.2	2.2	1,191	1,343
Wales	4.2	5.4	3.1	4.7	1.4	2.0	0.2	2.1	819	1,012
ALL ADULTS	4.5	6.0	4.1	4.9	1.4	2.1	0.4	3.0	10,766	12,309

1. The bases given are correct for any domestic abuse. The bases for the other measures presented will be similar though not identical to these due to different rates of 'don't know' responses and refusals to the relevant questions.

2. See the Glossary for definitions of household and area characteristics.

Protect - Statistics

Table 3.17 Logistic regression¹ model for experience of any domestic abuse in the last year among men

		2007/08 BCS			
Characteristic		Significance	Odds ratio ²	Confidence interval	
				Upper	Lower
Marital status	<i>Married</i>		1.00		
	Cohabiting	**	2.28	1.66	3.13
	Single	**	2.10	1.50	2.92
	Separated	**	3.81	2.03	7.14
	Divorced	**	3.04	1.78	5.21
	Widowed	ns	0.81	0.05	12.58
Age	16 to 24	**	2.01	1.37	2.97
	24 to 44	**	1.72	1.28	2.33
	45 to 59		1.00		
Illness/disability	<i>No disability</i>		1.00		
	Non-limiting disability	ns	0.96	0.62	1.49
	Limiting disability	**	1.70	1.22	2.36
Household type	<i>No children</i>		1.00		
	Adults and child(ren)	ns	1.16	0.91	1.48
	Single adult and child(ren)	**	2.58	1.12	5.95
ACORN category	<i>Wealthy Achievers</i>		1.00		
	Urban Prosperity	ns	1.14	0.80	1.63
	Comfortably Off	ns	1.27	0.96	1.70
	Moderate Means	ns	0.95	0.66	1.38
	Hard Pressed	**	1.50	1.10	2.05
<i>Unweighted base</i>			10,674		
<i>Nagelkerke R square³</i>			0.05		

1. Forward stepwise logistic regression.

2. Odds ratios of greater than one indicate relatively higher odds compared with the reference category in that variable, when holding all factors constant; less than one indicates relatively lower odds.

3. This model explains around five per cent of the variation in experience of any domestic abuse in the last year based only on the factors shown in the table. Additional variables which were included in the analysis but which were not shown in the model to be significantly associated with experience of any domestic abuse in the last year are: ethnic group, respondent's employment status, highest qualification, number of visits to pub/wine bar in the evening during the last month, tenure and area type.

4. Factors highlighted in bold are those that are considered strong predictors (contributing at least one per cent improvement in the model and accounting for three per cent of the variance). Categories highlighted in italics were used as reference categories.

*** Indicates that change is statistically significant at the five per cent level; 'ns' indicates that the change is not statistically significant at this level.

Protect - Statistics

Table 3.18 Logistic regression¹ model for experience of any domestic abuse in the last year among women

		2007/08 BCS			
Characteristic		Significance	Odds ratio ²	Confidence interval	
				Upper	Lower
Marital status	<i>Married</i>		1.00		
	Cohabiting	ns	1.29	0.93	1.80
	Single	**	2.58	1.92	3.46
	Separated	**	5.23	3.42	7.99
	Divorced	**	3.05	2.13	4.38
	Widowed	ns	1.29	0.43	3.93
Household type	<i>No children</i>		1.00		
	Adults and child(ren)	**	1.45	1.17	1.80
	Single adult and child(ren)	**	1.96	1.46	2.64
Illness/disability	<i>No disability</i>		1.00		
	Non-limiting disability	ns	1.36	0.95	1.95
	Limiting disability	**	1.93	1.48	2.51
Age	16 to 24	**	1.67	1.18	2.36
	24 to 44	**	1.61	1.23	2.12
	45 to 59		1.00		
Tenure	<i>Owner occupiers</i>		1.00		
	Social renters	ns	1.39	1.06	1.83
	Private renters	**	1.41	1.12	1.78
Ethnic group	<i>White</i>		1.00		
	Non-White	**	0.72	0.53	0.98
ACORN category	<i>Wealthy Achievers</i>		1.00		
	Urban Prosperity	ns	0.89	0.61	1.28
	Comfortably Off	ns	1.14	0.88	1.49
	Moderate Means	**	1.43	1.07	1.91
	Hard Pressed	ns	1.17	0.86	1.59
<i>Unweighted base</i>			12,218		
<i>Nagelkerke R square³</i>			0.09		

1. Forward stepwise logistic regression.

2. Odds ratios of greater than one indicate relatively higher odds compared with the reference category in that variable, when holding all factors constant; less than one indicates relatively lower odds.

3. This model explains around nine per cent of the variation in experience of any domestic abuse in the last year based only on the factors shown in the table. Additional variables which were included in the analysis but which were not shown in the model to be significantly associated with experience of any domestic abuse in the last year are: respondent's employment status, highest qualification, number of visits to pub/wine bar in the evening during the last month and area type.

4. Factors highlighted in bold are those that are considered strong predictors (contributing at least one per cent improvement in the model and accounting for seven per cent of the variance). Categories highlighted in italics were used as reference categories.

*** Indicates that change is statistically significant at the five per cent level; 'ns' indicates that the change is not statistically significant at this level.

Protect - Statistics

Table 3.19 Logistic regression¹ model for experience of partner abuse (non-sexual) in the last year among men

		2007/08 BCS			
Characteristic		Significance	Odds ratio ²	Confidence interval	
				Upper	Lower
Marital status	<i>Married</i>		1.00		
	Cohabiting	**	2.33	1.69	3.22
	Single	**	2.18	1.55	3.07
	Separated	**	3.50	1.81	6.77
	Divorced	**	3.42	2.00	5.86
	Widowed	ns	0.94	0.06	14.65
Age	16 to 24	**	1.98	1.33	2.96
	24 to 44	**	1.85	1.36	2.53
	<i>45 to 59</i>		1.00		
Highest Qualification	<i>Degree or diploma</i>		1.00		
	Apprenticeship or A/AS level	ns	0.93	0.70	1.23
	O level/GCSE	ns	0.94	0.70	1.26
	Other	ns	1.21	0.66	2.23
	No qualifications	**	1.57	1.12	2.19
ACORN category	<i>Wealthy Achievers</i>		1.00		
	Urban Prosperity	ns	1.10	0.75	1.60
	Comfortably Off	**	1.36	1.01	1.85
	Moderate Means	ns	1.04	0.71	1.52
	Hard Pressed	**	1.60	1.15	2.22
Household type	<i>No children</i>		1.00		
	Adults and child(ren)	ns	1.17	0.91	1.50
	Single adult and child(ren)	**	2.48	1.07	5.75
<i>Unweighted base</i>			11,011		
<i>Nagelkerke R square</i> ³			0.05		

1. Forward stepwise logistic regression.

2. Odds ratios of greater than one indicate relatively higher odds compared with the reference category in that variable, when holding all factors constant; less than one indicates relatively lower odds.

3. This model explains around five per cent of the variation in experience of (non-sexual) partner abuse in the last year based only on the factors shown in the table. Additional variables which were included in the analysis but which were not shown in the model to be significantly associated with experience of (non-sexual) partner abuse in the last year are: ethnic group, respondent's employment status, long-standing illness or disability, number of visits to pub/wine bar in the evening during the last month, tenure and area type.

4. Factors highlighted in bold are those that are considered strong predictors (contributing at least one per cent improvement in the model and accounting for three per cent of the variance). Categories highlighted in italics were used as reference categories.

*** Indicates that change is statistically significant at the five per cent level; 'ns' indicates that the change is not statistically significant at this level.

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Table 3.20 Logistic regression¹ model for experience of partner abuse (non-sexual) in the last year among women

		BCS 2007/08			
Characteristic		Significance	Odds ratio ²	Confidence interval	
				Upper	Lower
Household type	<i>No children</i>		1.00		
	Adults and child(ren)	**	1.28	1.01	1.63
	Single adult and child(ren)	**	2.36	1.75	3.18
Marital status	<i>Married</i>		1.00		
	Cohabiting	**	1.59	1.12	2.26
	Single	**	2.37	1.72	3.27
	Separated	**	6.16	4.03	9.42
	Divorced	**	3.15	2.14	4.62
	Widowed	ns	1.35	0.42	4.39
Tenure	<i>Owner occupiers</i>		1.00		
	Social renters	**	1.81	1.41	2.33
	Private renters	**	1.63	1.28	2.07
Illness/disability	<i>No disability</i>		1.00		
	Non-limiting disability	ns	1.22	0.81	1.82
	Limiting disability	**	1.67	1.25	2.23
Age	16 to 24	**	1.61	1.11	2.34
	24 to 44	**	1.62	1.20	2.17
	45 to 59		1.00		
<i>Unweighted base</i>			12,891		
<i>Nagelkerke R square³</i>			0.10		

1. Forward stepwise logistic regression.

2. Odds ratios of greater than one indicate relatively higher odds compared with the reference category in that variable, when holding all factors constant; less than one indicates relatively lower odds.

3. This model explains around ten per cent of the variation in experience of (non-sexual) partner abuse in the last year based only on the factors shown in the table. Additional variables which were included in the analysis but which were not shown in the model to be significantly associated with experience of (non-sexual) partner abuse in the last year are: ethnic group, respondent's employment status, highest qualification, number of visits to pub/wine bar in the evening during the last month, ACORN category and area type.

4. Factors highlighted in bold are those that are considered strong predictors (contributing at least one per cent improvement in the model and accounting for ten per cent of the variance). Categories highlighted in italics were used as reference categories.

*** Indicates that change is statistically significant at the five per cent level; 'ns' indicates that the change is not statistically significant at this level.

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Table 3.21 Logistic regression¹ model for experience of family abuse (non-sexual) in the last year among men

		BCS 2007/08			
Characteristic		Significance	Odds ratio ²	Confidence interval	
				Upper	Lower
Marital status	<i>Married</i>		1.00		
	Cohabiting	**	2.19	1.23	3.88
	Single	**	3.03	1.93	4.75
	Separated	ns	1.76	0.45	6.90
	Divorced	ns	1.12	0.31	4.02
Illness/disability	<i>No disability</i>		1.00		
	Non-limiting disability	ns	0.48	0.17	1.40
	Limiting disability	**	2.10	1.27	3.50
Ethnic group	<i>White</i>		1.00		
	Non-White	**	1.84	1.14	2.97
Household type	<i>No children</i>		1.00		
	Adults and child(ren)	ns	1.22	0.81	1.85
	Single adult and child(ren)	**	5.39	1.50	19.39
<i>Unweighted base</i>			10,901		
<i>Nagelkerke R square³</i>			0.04		

1. Forward stepwise logistic regression.

2. Odds ratios of greater than one indicate relatively higher odds compared with the reference category in that variable, when holding all factors constant; less than one indicates relatively lower odds.

3. This model explains around four per cent of the variation in experience of (non-sexual) family abuse in the last year based only on the factors shown in the table. Additional variables which were included in the analysis but which were not shown in the model to be significantly associated with experience of (non-sexual) family abuse in the last year are: age group, respondent's employment status, highest qualification, number of visits to pub/wine bar in the evening during the last month, tenure, ACORN category and area type.

4. Factors highlighted in bold are those that are considered strong predictors (contributing at least one per cent improvement in the model and accounting for two per cent of the variance). Categories highlighted in italics were used as reference categories.

*** Indicates that change is statistically significant at the five per cent level; 'ns' indicates that the change is not statistically significant at this level.

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Table 3.22 Logistic regression¹ model for experience of family abuse (non-sexual) in the last year among women

		BCS 2007/08			
Characteristic		Significance	Odds ratio ²	Confidence interval	
				Upper	Lower
Marital status	<i>Married</i>		1.00		
	Cohabiting	**	1.73	1.06	2.82
	Single	**	3.75	2.64	5.31
	Separated	**	2.69	1.15	6.32
	Divorced	**	2.81	1.57	5.01
	Widowed	ns	0.34	0.01	8.99
Illness/disability	<i>No disability</i>		1.00		
	Non-limiting disability	**	1.86	1.11	3.12
	Limiting disability	**	2.48	1.70	3.61
Household type	<i>No children</i>		1.00		
	Adults and child(ren)	**	1.97	1.45	2.67
	Single adult and child(ren)	ns	1.13	0.68	1.88
Respondent's employment status	<i>Employed</i>		1.00		
	Unemployed	**	2.12	1.08	4.13
	Inactive	**	1.40	1.03	1.91
<i>Unweighted base</i>			12,757		
<i>Nagelkerke R square</i> ³			0.06		

1. Forward stepwise logistic regression.

2. Odds ratios of greater than one indicate relatively higher odds compared with the reference category in that variable, when holding all factors constant; less than one indicates relatively lower odds.

3. This model explains around 6% of the variation in experience of (non-sexual) family abuse in the last year based only on the factors shown in the table. Additional variables which were included in the analysis but which were not shown in the model to be significantly associated with experience of (non-sexual) family abuse in the last year are: age group, ethnic group, highest qualification, number of visits to pub/wine bar in the evening during the last month, tenure, ACORN category and area type.

4. Factors highlighted in bold are those that are considered strong predictors (contributing at least one per cent improvement in the model and accounting for six per cent of the variance). Categories highlighted in italics were used as reference categories.

*** Indicates that change is statistically significant at the five per cent level; 'ns' indicates that the change is not statistically significant at this level.

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Table 3.23 Logistic regression¹ model for experience of any sexual assault in the last year among women

		2007/08 BCS			
Characteristic		Significance	Odds ratio ²	Confidence interval	
				Upper	Lower
Age	16 to 24	**	3.74	2.23	6.27
	24 to 44	**	2.24	1.42	3.52
	45 to 59		1.00		
Marital status	<i>Married</i>		1.00		
	Cohabiting	ns	1.57	0.99	2.49
	Single	**	2.50	1.67	3.74
	Separated	**	3.33	1.65	6.73
	Divorced	**	2.12	1.13	3.98
	Widowed	ns	0.56	0.03	10.84
Number of visits to pub/wine bar in the evening during last month	<i>None</i>		1.00		
	Less than once a week	ns	1.31	0.95	1.82
	Once a week or more often	**	2.38	1.75	3.24
Tenure	<i>Owner occupiers</i>		1.00		
	Social renters	**	1.62	1.14	2.30
	Private renters	**	1.88	1.42	2.49
Illness/disability	<i>No disability</i>		1.00		
	Non-limiting disability	ns	1.30	0.77	2.18
	Limiting disability	**	2.00	1.37	2.93
<i>Unweighted base</i>			12,607		
<i>Nagelkerke R square³</i>			0.12		

1. Forward stepwise logistic regression.

2. Odds ratios of greater than one indicate relatively higher odds compared with the reference category in that variable, when holding all factors constant; less than one indicates relatively lower odds.

3. This model explains around twelve per cent of the variation in experience of (non-sexual) family abuse in the last year based only on the factors shown in the table. Additional variables which were included in the analysis but which were not shown in the model to be significantly associated with experience of (non-sexual) family abuse in the last year are: ethnic group, household structure, respondent's employment status, highest qualification, ACORN category and area type.

4. Factors highlighted in bold are those that are considered strong predictors (contributing at least one per cent improvement in the model and accounting for eleven per cent of the variance). Categories highlighted in italics were used as reference categories.

*** Indicates that change is statistically significant at the five per cent level; 'ns' indicates that the change is not statistically significant at this level.

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Appendix 1 Glossary

2007/08 Interview sample – This is the sample on which latest BCS results are based. It consists of all respondents interviewed by the BCS during the 2007/08 financial year.

ACORN – ‘A Classification of Residential Neighbourhoods’, developed by CACI Ltd., which classifies households into one of 56 ACORN types according to demographic, employment and housing characteristics of the surrounding neighbourhood. ACORN is useful in determining the social environment in which households are located. The 2001 ACORN classification has been used in this report. The main five-group breakdowns have been used in this report and are characterised as follows:

- **Wealthy Achievers** – wealthy executives, affluent older people and well-off families.
- **Urban Prosperity** – prosperous professionals, young urban professionals and students living in town and city areas.
- **Comfortably Off** – young couples, secure families, older couples living in the suburbs and pensioners.
- **Moderate Means** – Asian communities, post-industrial families and skilled manual workers.
- **Hard Pressed** – low-income families, residents in council areas, people living in high-rise, and inner-city estates.

Further information about ACORN is available from CACI Ltd., CACI House, Kensington Village, Avonmore Road, London W14 8TS (<http://www.caci.co.uk/acorn/>).

BB gun – An imitation firearm that discharges plastic pellets typically by way of a spring action or compressed air.

Burglary – An offence of burglary is recorded by the police if a person enters any building as a trespasser and with intent to commit an offence of theft, grievous bodily harm or unlawful damage.

Calibration weighting – The weighting is designed to make adjustments for known differentials in response rates between different age by sex subgroups and households with different age and sex composition. For example, a household containing a 24-year-old male living alone may be less likely to respond to the survey than a household containing a 24-year-old male living with a young partner and a child. The procedure therefore gives different weights to different household types based on their age/sex composition in such a way that the weighted distribution of individuals in the responding households matches the known distribution in the population as a whole. The weights are generated using an algorithm that minimises the differences between the weights implied by sampling and the final weights subject to the weighted data meeting the population controls. They are based on calibrating on **population figures** provided by the Labour Force Survey (LFS) from ONS.

Charge/summons – An offence is deemed to be detected if a person has been charged or summonsed for the crime (irrespective of any subsequent acquittal at Court).

Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) – BCS interviewers record responses to the questionnaire on laptop computers (CAPI). The questionnaire is a computer program that specifies the questions, range and structure of permissible answers and instructions for navigating through the questionnaire. Plausibility and consistency checks are incorporated to improve data quality. The self-completion modules on the BCS are conducted using Computer Assisted Self-Interviewing (CASI) where the interviewer gives the laptop to the respondent. CASI allows respondents to report behaviours or attitudes to more sensitive

questions in private. The mode of interview changed in the 1994 BCS from a paper-based questionnaire to CAPI.

Confidence interval – The range of values between which the population parameter is estimated to lie (also referred to as margin of error). Surveys produce statistics that are estimates of the real figure for the population under study. These estimates are always surrounded by a margin of error of plus or minus a given range. At the 95 per cent confidence level, over many repeats of a survey under the same conditions, one would expect that these confidence intervals would contain the true population value in 95 times out of 100. When assessing the results of a single survey it is assumed that there is a one in 20 chance that the true population value will fall outside the 95 per cent confidence interval calculated for the survey estimate.

Confidence intervals can also be constructed for changes in estimates between years of the BCS and for differences between population subgroups. If a difference is outside a range set by a 95 per cent confidence interval then one judges the difference to be 'statistically significant at the five per cent level'. In this publication a five per cent significance level has been applied. See also the definition of **statistical significance**.

Counting rules – Instructions issued to the police by the Home Office on how the police should count and classify crime. Recorded crime figures in this publication are based on the counting rules that came into force on 1 April 1998. These rules were updated following the introduction on 1 April 2002 of the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) **National Crime Recording Standard** devised by ACPO in collaboration with Home Office statisticians. A copy of the latest counting rules is available on the Home Office website at www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/counrules.html.

Criminal damage – Criminal damage results from any person who without lawful excuse destroys or damages any property belonging to another, intending to destroy or damage any such property or being reckless as to whether any such property would be destroyed or damaged. Separate recorded crime figures exist for criminal damage to a dwelling, to a building other than a dwelling, to a vehicle and other criminal damage. Combined figures are also published for racially or religiously aggravated criminal damage. In the BCS, criminal damage is referred to as vandalism; that is any intentional damage done to property belonging to the respondent, or to their home or vehicle. As in the case of burglary, the BCS only includes vandalism relating to households.

Ethnic group – Respondents are asked to make a choice from a card to identify their ethnic background using the standard 2001 Census classification. Due to small sample sizes, it is necessary to collapse this classification into either a five-fold classification, i.e. White, Black, Asian, Mixed and Chinese or Other or to a simpler two-fold White and Non-White classification, based on the National Statistics **harmonised classification**.

Employment status – The BCS uses the following categories for employment status which are based on the National Statistics **harmonised classification** but include further breakdowns for those in the 'Economically inactive' category.

- In employment – includes people doing paid work in the last week; working on a government-supported training scheme; or doing unpaid work for own/family business.
- Unemployed – actively seeking work, or waiting to take up work.
- Economically inactive – those who are retired; going to school or college full-time; looking after home/family; are temporarily or permanently sick; or doing something else.

Base sizes for the student categories differ in the economic categories from those in the occupational classification (see **NS-SEC**) as economically inactive students exclude those who are in employment, or in other ways economically active, but full-time students are recognised as such within the occupational coding of NS-SEC.

Government Office Region (GOR) – Government Offices for the Regions were established across England in 1994. The Government Office Regions are the primary classification for the presentation of regional statistics. There are nine GORs in England: North East; North West; Yorkshire and the Humber; East Midlands; West Midlands; East of England; London; South East; South West. In this report analysis by region also includes separate analysis for Wales.

Harmonised classifications – National Statistics have developed a set of standard classifications that allow greater comparability of different surveys and other data collection systems. A number of these classifications have been adopted by the BCS. For more information on the harmonised classifications see:

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/data/harmonisation/default.asp>.

Homicide – Comprises the recorded crimes of murder, manslaughter and infanticide. The published police recorded figures do not separately identify between these categories since at the time an offence is recorded by the police the circumstances surrounding the offence may not necessarily be known. Whether an offence is murder or manslaughter may be decided once an offender has been apprehended and appeared in court. The Homicide Index collection can make this distinction, as it covers suspect and court outcome data as well as recorded crime data. The BCS, by its nature (i.e. being reliant on victim interviews), cannot include homicide.

Household reference person (HRP) – For some topics it is necessary to select one person in the household to indicate the characteristics of the household more generally. Following the National Statistics' **harmonised classifications**, the BCS replaced head of household with household reference person (HRP) in 2001/02. The HRP is the member of the household in whose name the accommodation is owned or rented, or is otherwise responsible for the accommodation. Where this responsibility is joint within the household, the HRP is the person with the highest income. If incomes are equal, then the oldest person is the HRP.

Household structure – The classification of households in the BCS is on the basis of number of adults and number of children. Households are divided into the following categories:

- one adult, and one or more children (aged under 16). Note this does not necessarily denote a lone parent family, as the adult may be a sibling or grandparent of the child;
- more than one adult with one or more children (under 16);
- one or more adults with no children (under 16).

Imitation Weapons – Weapons designed to look like a real gun, but not capable of firing bulletted ammunition. Some fire other ammunition instead (e.g. **BB guns** can fire plastic pellets). This category also includes deactivated firearms and blank firers.

Living arrangements – The BCS uses the following definitions for living arrangements, based on the National Statistics **harmonised classification**:

- persons living in a couple: married, cohabiting (includes same-sex couples);
- persons not living in a couple: single, separated, divorced or widowed.

Logistic regression – A multivariate statistical technique that predicts the outcome of a dependent variable (e.g. risk of crime), which has only two possible outcomes, from a set of independent variables. Multivariate techniques allow the assessment of which of the independent variables are statistically related to the dependent variable when the influence of all other variables under consideration is taken into account. Both continuous and categorical variables can be used to predict the dependent variable. The logistic regression method used in this report was the forward stepwise selection.

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National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) – Instigated by the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), with the collaboration of Home Office statisticians, it aims to promote greater consistency between police forces in the recording of crime and to take a more victim-orientated approach to crime recording. Under the NCRS, where a member of the public reports a crime the police must record it providing “there is no credible evidence to the contrary”. Although some forces adopted the Standard early, it was officially introduced across England and Wales on 1 April 2002, though audits indicated that in some forces it took two to three years to be implemented. Counting rules are available on the Home Office website, see: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/countrules.html>.

No Crime – A crime that has already been recorded by the police can subsequently be ‘no crimed’ if new information comes to light, before a suspect is charged, that shows that a crime did not occur. Further details, and several other circumstances that allow for ‘no criming’, appear in the Home Office **counting rules**.

NS-SEC – The National Statistics Socio-economic Classification (NS-SEC) is an occupationally based classification, but provides coverage of the whole adult population. The NS-SEC aims to differentiate positions within labour markets and production units in terms of their typical ‘employment relations’.

More information about NS-SEC can be found on the National Statistics website, see: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/methods_quality/ns_sec/default.asp.

BCS analysis is based on the three analytic classes provided within NS-SEC (http://www.statistics.gov.uk/methods_quality/ns_sec/downloads/NS-SEC_User.pdf) but also describes full-time students in a separate category (usually included within the ‘Not classified’ category). Base sizes for the student categories differ in NS-SEC from those in the economic classification (see **Employment status**) as economically inactive students exclude those who are in employment, or in other ways economically active, but full-time students are recognised as such within the occupational coding of NS-SEC.

Physical disorder – This term is used to describe a measure based on the interviewer’s assessment of the level of (a) vandalism, graffiti and deliberate damage to property, (b) rubbish and litter, and (c) homes in poor condition in the area. Using guidance, the interviewer has to make an assessment as to whether each of these problems is very common, fairly common, not very common or not at all common. For each, very and fairly common is scored as 1 and not very and not at all as 0. A scale is then constructed by summing the scores for each case. The scale ranges from 0 to 3, with high disorder areas being those with a score of 2 or 3.

Population figures – The BCS uses population figures in the calibration weighting. Following the 2001 Census, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) issued revised estimates of population involving the total numbers of people and the distribution by age and sex. **Calibration weighting** for the 2007/08 BCS and previous years has been calculated using population distributions, which have not fully incorporated the census revisions.

Postcode Address File (PAF) – The small users’ Postcode Address File has been used as the sampling frame for the BCS since 1992. It is a listing of all postal delivery points in the country, with almost all households having one delivery point or letterbox. BCS sampling methods take account of the fact that a delivery point may correspond to more than one household such as a house with one front door converted into flats.

Prevalence rates – Prevalence rates show the percentage of the BCS sample who were victims of an offence once or more during the year. Prevalence rates only take account of whether a household or person was a victim of a specific crime once or more in the reference period, but not the number of times victimised. Prevalence rates are taken as equivalent to risk of crime.

Pub visits – Respondents are asked, “In the last month, how many times did you visit a pub or bar in the evening?” (for more details see the BCS questionnaire: <http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/findingData/bcrsTitles.asp>). Responses are combined to provide the categories used to analyse the relationship between intimate violence and frequency of pub visits (see Chapter 3).

Robbery – An incident or offence in which force or the threat of force is used either during or immediately prior to a theft or attempted theft. Recorded crime offences distinguish between robbery of personal property and business property. Robbery of business property is a recorded crime classification where goods stolen belong to a business or other corporate body (such as a bank or a shop), regardless of the location of the robbery

Rural areas – The National Statistics rural and urban area classification 2004 has been used in this report. Rural areas are those classified as ‘small town and fringe – sparse’, ‘village – sparse’, ‘hamlet and isolated dwelling – sparse’, ‘small town and fringe – less sparse’, ‘village – less sparse’ and ‘hamlet and isolated dwellings – less sparse’.

More information is available on the National Statistics website, see: <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/geography/nrudp.asp>

Sampling error – A sample, as used in the BCS, is a small-scale representation of the population from which it is drawn. As such, the sample may produce estimates that differ from the figures that would have been obtained if the whole population had been interviewed. The size of the error depends on the sample size, the size and variability of the estimate, and the design of the survey. It can be computed and used to construct **confidence intervals**. Sampling error is also taken into account in tests of **statistical significance**.

Sample size – In the 2007/08 BCS the overall achieved core sample size was 46,983 and the response rate was 76 per cent. The survey was designed to achieve a minimum of around 1,000 core sample interviews in each police force area (PFA). For more information on BCS methodology see Bolling *et al.*, (2008).

Sexual offences – Prior to May 2004 there were 15 separate offences included in the recorded crime sexual offences group including the offences of rape and indecent assault. The Sexual Offences Act 2003, which came into force in May 2004, introduced several new offences and repealed some of those which were previously in the series. Full details are provided in Appendix 2 (Kershaw *et al.*, 2008).

Statistical significance – Because the BCS estimates are subject to **sampling error**, differences between estimates from successive years of the survey or between population subgroups may occur by chance. Tests of statistical significance are used to identify which differences are unlikely to have occurred by chance. In this publication tests at the five per cent significance level have been applied (the level at which there is a one in 20 chance of an observed difference being solely due to chance).

Stratification – One of the BCS requirements is a design that achieves a minimum of around 1,000 core sample interviews per police force area (PFA). The survey was designed to over-sample in the smaller PFAs to achieve the minimum number of interviews. One result of this is that the data have to be weighted to remove the effect of differences in the probability of selection of addresses within different PFAs. As well as stratifying disproportionately by PFA, the sample was stratified by other socio-demographic variables in order to maximise the precision of estimates. The stratifiers used in 2007/08 were the same as in previous surveys, namely population density and the proportion of household reference

Tenure – The following definition of tenure is used by the BCS based on the National Statistics **harmonised classification**:

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- Owner occupiers: households who own their homes outright, or are buying with a mortgage (includes shared owners, who own part of the equity and pay part of the mortgage/rent).
- Social renters: households renting from a council, housing association or other social-rented sector.
- Private renters: households privately renting unfurnished or furnished property. This includes tenants whose accommodation comes with their job, even if their landlord is a housing association or local authority.

Urban areas – The National Statistics rural and urban area classification 2004 has been used in this report. Urban areas are those classified as ‘urban – sparse’ and ‘urban – less sparse’. More information is available on the National Statistics website at: (<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/geography/nrudp.asp>).

Violence against the person – A group of recorded crime offence classifications which is split into ‘Most serious violence against the person’ and ‘Other violence against the person’ offences. The ‘most serious’ subgroup comprises violent offences where the injury inflicted or intended is life threatening, and offences resulting in death, regardless of intent. ‘Other violence against the person’ includes offences involving less serious injury. It also includes certain offences that involve no physical injury, and some involving serious intent. The offence classes where no injury is sustained are as follows:

- Endangering railway passengers;
- Endangering life at sea;
- Other possession of weapons;
- Harassment;
- Racially or religiously aggravated harassment;
- Cruelty to and neglect of children;
- Abandoning a child under the age of two years;
- Child abduction;
- Assault without injury on a constable;
- Assault without injury;
- Racially or religiously aggravated assault without injury.

Weighted data – Two types of weighting are used to ensure the representativeness of the BCS sample. First, the raw data are weighted to compensate for unequal probabilities of selection. These include: the individual's chance of participation being inversely proportional to the number of adults living in the household; the over-sampling of smaller police force areas; and the selection of multi-household addresses. Second, **calibration weighting** is used to adjust for differential non-response.

Wounding – There are two types of wounding classifications used for recorded crime. The more serious are those offences committed with intent to do grievous bodily harm and are classified as ‘wounding or other act endangering life’. Those of assault occasioning actual bodily harm are classified in the ‘other wounding’ category.

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Copies of Home Office statistical bulletins are available from the Home Office web site:

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